

Andreotti pays brief visit to Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti wound up a brief visit to Beirut and flew to Cyprus Friday after talks with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, palace sources said. Mr. Andreotti told reporters that his talks with Mr. Gemayel focused on "what help the European Community could offer to restore peace in Lebanon." Mr. Andreotti also said that any possible help would be "of a political nature and not a military one." Italy holds the rotating presidency of the European Common Market until the end of June. Mr. Andreotti was quoted by Corriere Della Sera, Italy's largest newspaper, as saying: "Europe cannot stand by impassively in the face of acts of war and massacres that strike one Lebanese ethnic-religious group after another." Mr. Andreotti left from Lebanon by helicopter to Larnaca, Cyprus, en route to Damascus for talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, said palace sources.

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Qadhafi reportedly plans Iraq visit

KUWAIT (R) — Libya's leader Muammar Qadhafi is expected to visit Baghdad shortly for talks on the four-and-a-half year old Iran-Iraq war, a Kuwaiti daily newspaper said Friday. Quoting Arab sources, Al Qabas said the visit, expected within the next two weeks, would follow an agreement reached between Col. Qadhafi and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to launch a new initiative to end the Gulf war. Col. Qadhafi visited Saudi Arabia for one day last weekend — simultaneously with a trip to Iran by the Saudi foreign minister — and had two rounds of talks with King Fahd.

Gandhi tours Soviet Central Asia

MOSCOW (R) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi flew Friday to Kirghizia, a Soviet Central Asian republic bordering China, on the third leg of his official tour of the Soviet Union. TASS news agency said Mr. Gandhi was greeted on arrival in the republican capital of Frunze by local leaders. After two days of talks in Moscow, the Indian prime minister Saturday flew to the city of Minsk, in the west of the country.

Gandhi murder trial postponed

NEW DELHI (R) — The Indira Gandhi murder trial was adjourned Friday for the fourth time when the wife of one of the accused objected to their son's detention under national security regulations. Jasbir Kaur said in an application to the court that the detention stopped her son from helping with the defence of his father, Kehar Singh, who is charged with conspiracy to murder. The son, Rajinder Singh, was detained on May 3, nine days before the trial started, for acting in a suspicious manner. Judge Mahesh Chandra ordered the trial adjourned until May 28.

Irish leader opposes visit by Herzog

DUBLIN (AP) — A member of the Irish parliament urged the government Friday to withdraw its invitation to Israel's Irish-born president, Chaim Herzog, to visit Ireland next month, following a confrontation between Irish and Israeli troops in Lebanon. Michael Langan, leader of the opposition Fianna Fail party in the Senate, the upper house of parliament, said Israel had shown a "most unfriendly" attitude toward Ireland's participation in the U.N. peacekeeping force in Lebanon.

S. Africa seeks talks with Angola

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa said Friday it wants urgent talks with the Angolan government to discuss repatriating a South African soldier captured in the far north of Angola three days ago. It was the first time South Africa has acknowledged Angola's claim that its soldiers captured one South African commando and killed two others.

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Beirut camp defenders hold out against Amal; truce efforts falter

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Palestinian defenders made a last stand in Beirut's refugee camps Friday against hundreds of militiamen of the Shi'ite Amal movement, backed by Lebanese regular soldiers, while efforts for an end to the week-long Amal attacks faltered.

"We're fighting foot by foot, they're putting up a hell of a fight," a tall Amal militia officer said in a gloomy, smoke-filled alleyway 20 metres from the Palestinian position behind a block of bullet-scarred houses.

Amal militiamen and Lebanese troops fired automatic rifles and rockets to try and flush out the Palestinian fighters, sending smoke billowing from buildings in the Bourj Al Barajneh, Sabra and Shatila camps in South Beirut. In Damascus, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said Palestinian groups had formed suicide squads to defend the camps and "inflict the heaviest losses possible" on the attackers.

The PFLP also said press reports of a Syrian-proposed ceasefire were baseless and "aimed at lowering the high morale of our heroic fighters."

Security sources estimated fighting since Sunday night had left some 230 people dead and 900 wounded. International Red Cross officials said they had been unable to enter the camps to tend the wounded.

The Palestinians in the three camps have held out for five days against the Amal forces. But it was clear to reporters at the front line in the twisting, bullet-chipped alleys that the Palestinians rearguard in Sabra cannot hold out for long, the AP said.

Amal, backed by Sixth Brigade armour, has also pushed deep into Shatila, storming strongpoints, squeezing the Palestinians into a small area where they are being

pounded with rocket-propelled grenades and 106-mm recoilless rifles.

In Sabra, heavy gunfire and explosions thundered incessantly, echoing through the darkened alleys, where the smoke and ash smothered the light to an opaque haze. Shell cases littered the dusty ground besides piles of garbage sinking in the heat and burned-out cars.

Heavy machine gun fire roared around the advancing militiamen, supported by soldiers from the Lebanese army's Sixth Brigade. They joined Amal two days ago when it became clear Amal could not overpower the Palestinians on their own.

A Palestinian spokesman, who declined to be identified, said in a telephone interview with the AP: "This looks like the final assault in Sabra. Amal is closing in behind a murderous barrage of Sixth Brigade tank fire. We're lost large chunks of the camp."

The Palestinians had 300 fighters in Sabra and Shatila when the fighting began. Scores have been reported killed and wounded.

There are an estimated 3,000 fighters in the sprawling Bourj Al Barajneh camp, which will make it a far harder nut for Amal to crack than Sabra and Shatila.

Amal has committed hundreds of its 6,000 fighters in the camps battle. The Sixth Brigade has some 1,500 men, but not all are fighting.

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and senior Jordanian and Palestinian leaders offer prayers Friday in memory of those who were killed in refugee camps in Beirut in attacks by Lebanese militiamen (Petra photo)

Palestinians stage widespread protests, urge end to attacks

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied territories and elsewhere in the Middle East and Europe Friday staged widespread protests and appealed for an end to Lebanese militia attacks against Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut.

In Amman, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat led Friday prayers in memory of those killed in the week-long clashes in the Lebanese capital while various professional and social organisations issued strong protests against the continued violence and urged Arab and international efforts to end the attacks.

About 150 people have been killed and over 700 injured in the assaults by militiamen of the Lebanese Shi'ite Amal movement on

the Sabra, Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh refugee camps in west Beirut and, according to reports reaching here, fighting was still continuing Friday.

Prince Hassan and Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), along with other worshippers took part in Friday's special prayers in memory of those killed in the attacks.

During the prayer, held at the Prince Hassan Mosque in Amman upon the directives of His Majesty King Hussein, the Kingdom's General Mufti Sheikh Izaddine Al Khathir Al Tamimi delivered Friday's sermon calling on all those with "living conscience to shoulder their responsibility in halting the attacks."

The mufti also hailed the King's support for the Palestinian people to gain their legitimate rights and to regain their usurped homeland. Sheikh Tamimi said the attacks on the Beirut camps were "against all

religions, honours, values and laws" and such an aggression is a despicable tyranny.

Similar special prayers were also held on Friday in all mosques throughout the Kingdom in memory of the victims of the attacks in Beirut which Mr. Arafat on Thursday denounced as "barbaric" and a "Syrian-American-Israeli conspiracy against the Palestinian people."

"It is a big conspiracy against our future camps, and our people and the conspiracies was planned in June 1982 when Israel invaded Lebanon with U.S. support," Mr. Arafat told reporters during a press conference in Amman.

Mr. Arafat said this "conspiracy is part of an agreement between U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy and the Syrian regime to prevent the PLO forces from returning to South Lebanon and to protect the safety of Israel's northern borders."

(Continued on page 3)

Bridges close tomorrow; procedures set for summer

AMMAN (Petra) — Both bridges across River Jordan to the occupied West Bank will be closed on Sunday, May 26 and will reopen as normal on the following day, an announcement by the Public Security Department said Friday.

The department also announced its annual summer arrangements for travel across the bridges.

According to the regulations, effective as of June 1, travellers to the West Bank should obtain permits for crossing from police centres at Arwa Bint Al Hareth School in Jabal Amman (for travellers to Jerusalem and Hebron governorates), Princess Basma School in Jabal Lubweibeh (for those travelling to the Gaza Strip) and Al Hussein Elementary School in Jabal Hussein (for travellers to Nabulus governorate). Other centres are to be opened for the purpose in Irbid, Balqa and Zarqa districts and all centres will open from 7:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., the department said.

Non-Jordanians travelling to the West Bank are not subject to the regulations, and special arrangements have been made for them.

Norway protests Israeli clashes with UNIFIL unit

OSLO (Agencies) — Norway said Friday it had lodged an official protest with Israel following a series of clashes last Saturday between Norwegian members of a U.N. force in Lebanon and Israeli troops.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said a warning shot was fired at a member of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and Norwegian troops had to take cover when some 200 rounds of ammunition were fired over their heads.

The Israeli fire was aimed at an "intruder" in an Israeli army depot, but the shots went over the heads of troops at the Norwegian UNIFIL headquarters. No-one was injured, the spokesman added.

In another clash on Saturday, UNIFIL troops stopped Israeli armoured personnel carriers entering the town of Ebel El Saqi in southern Lebanon, where the Norwegian headquarters is situated.

The spokesman said an official at Israel's Oslo embassy had been called to the Foreign Ministry and told of Norway's serious concern over the incident.

In another development, Israeli occupation troops severely damaged the vehicle of the Norwegian

U.N. concerned over Beirut situation

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations Security Council expressed serious concern Friday at the heightened violence in parts of Lebanon and strongly appealed for restraint to alleviate the suffering of civilians. The statement, issued after closed-door consultations, was prompted by fierce fighting between Palestinians and Shi'ite Amal militia at three Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut, as well as other acts of violence in and around the Lebanese capital. The statement endorsed a similar appeal on Wednesday by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who referred to the fighting around the refugee camps and called for an end to violence involving the civilian population. The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Yasser Arafat, earlier this week called for Security Council intervention. But since the situation is widely regarded as an internal Lebanese matter, no full-scale council debate was possible.

King, Queen arrive in Rhode Island

WASHINGTON (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Thursday arrived at the city of Providence in the American state of Rhode Island.

The King and Queen were received at a U.S. Air Force base by Governor Edward Bert and a number of the state's high ranking civilian and military officials as well as the president of Brown University.

Also receiving the King and Queen were Jordanian Ambassador to the United Nations Abdullah Salah and Ambassador to the U.S. Mohammad Kamal.

The King and Queen were joined by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, Her Highness Princess Tagreed and His Highness Prince Faisal.

The King and Queen are accompanied by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Mrs. Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Jassam and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zaid.

The King's visit to the state of Rhode Island comes in response to an invitation by Brown University's president to attend the graduation of the 1985 class which includes Prince Faisal.

The King will deliver the ceremony's official speech. Meanwhile, the White House sought to discourage expectations that talks next week between President Reagan and King Hussein would produce major progress on peace in the Middle East.

"I can say that while we don't necessarily see King Hussein's visit as a watershed, we do believe it can contribute to the growing sense of momentum and hope in the area," White House spokesman Robert Sims said.

King Hussein will meet Mr. Reagan at the White House on Wednesday. "The president is very much looking forward to seeing him," Mr. Sims said.

Secretary of State George Shultz held talks with King Hussein earlier this month in Aqaba to try to work out the possible composition of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating delegation acceptable to both Palestinians and Israelis.

Mr. Shultz also met government officials in Israel and held talks with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt in Cairo.

King Hussein has repeatedly called for the United States to take a more active role in the Middle East peace process but the Reagan administration has said it is up to parties in the region to start talks.

King Hussein, who left Amman on Monday, arrived in the U.S. He held talks with Mr. Mubarak in Cairo and British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe in London.

The Foreign Office said the 40-minute talks the King had with the Mr. Howe were "open, friendly and entirely confidential". It said the talks covered regional issues, in particular the Arabs and Israel, but it declined any further details.

The Feb. 11 accord between Jordan and the PLO is "straightforward and genuine and — despite its brevity — comprehensive," Prince Hassan said. Underlining that the accord is "rooted in international and Arab consensus," and "more than fair to the Israeli," the Crown Prince said "this present opportunity for a durable peace should not be wasted."

He noted that the initial European response to the agreement "has been encouraging" and said, "a more forceful and effective European role is called for if the peace process is to evolve."

"The geo-political reality of the European Community, its proximity with the Middle East, its long political involvement in the area and its present non-partisan role can all contribute to enhancing the prospects of understanding and compromise," the Crown Prince said.

The Crown Prince said that Europe has the power, through its strong relations with the United States, to induce Washington to adopt a more positive and even-handed approach to the Middle East peace process by confronting the political realities and agreeing to open a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and participating in an international peace conference. (Full text of the Regent's speech on page 4)

Police, Seoul students clash as sit-in continues at USIS

SEOUL (R) — Riot police firing tear gas Friday clashed with thousands of students demonstrating in support of colleagues occupying the U.S. Information Service library here.

The occupation, a protest against Washington's support for President Chun Doo Hwan, entered a second day as talks between the students and U.S. diplomats made no progress.

Hundreds of police ringed the building but the U.S. embassy has asked them not to storm it. The 75 students inside have threatened to kill themselves if the building was stormed.

One of the occupants told reporters through a window: "We know the United States is our ally. But if it is to be a true ally, it should not support military dictator President Chun Doo Hwan."

The students have had no food since they took over the library and said they would continue their hunger strike until their demands were met.

They also want the United States to apologise for its perceived role in the military's crushing of the 1980 civil uprising in the southwestern city of Kwangju.

Prime Minister Lho Shin-Yong and U.S. Ambassador Richard Walker met to discuss the situation, but no details of the talks were available.

"We are still hoping to bring about an early and peaceful solution through dialogue and other non-confrontation methods to return the library to normal operation," an embassy spokesman said.

Leading dissident Kim Dae-Jung said in a message to those in the library that they should seek a peaceful solution to their protest.

A South Korean foreign ministry official said Seoul hoped the incident would not adversely affect its relations with the United States, which has 40,000 troops stationed in the country.

Jewish settlers force 2 freed Palestinians to escape to Jordan

AL FERDIS, West Bank (R) — Israeli settlers furious over the release of 605 convicted Palestinians inside Israel and the occupied territories have forced two of them to flee to Jordan.

Authorities fear the incident, in which the settlers smashed windows and daubed Palestinian homes with red paint, may mark the beginning of a violent campaign.

The guerrillas were among 1,150 prisoners released on Monday in exchange for three Israeli soldiers held by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

The two men from this tiny village on a rocky hillside 13 kilometres south of Jerusalem were serving life terms for the July 1982 killing of David Rosenfeld of the

nearby Jewish settlement of Tekoa.

A spokeswoman for Israel's civil administration said a third man convicted for the killing would leave in a few days.

Rosenfeld, an immigrant from the United States, managed a nearby archaeological site.

"People were very happy here when the boys returned from jail because they are our sons," said a cousin of one of the Palestinians. "We made a little bafra (feast) when they came."

But settlers from Tekoa broke up the celebration, returning on

consecutive nights and shooting in the air, smashing windows and splashing houses with red paint.

The two Palestinians, Mahmud Hassan Halaf Al Himri and Rabe Suleiman Ahmad Abu Mahmud, requested exit permits and crossed to Jordan.

Under the terms of the controversial exchange pact, Israeli authorities had to agree to allow many of the released Palestinians to return to their homes in the West Bank.

But so far, an intimidation campaign by settlers in other parts of the occupied territory has limited returns.

The Israeli spokeswoman said that of the 400 inmates released in the West Bank, only Mahmud, Himri and their partner Muhammad Al Mubarak Abu Mahmud had requested exit permits.



ENVOYS PRESENT CREDENTIALS: The newly appointed Greek (left) and Norwegian ambassadors to Jordan present copies of their credentials to Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri. The

Greek Ambassador is Mr. Hannibal Vellafidis who succeeds Mr. George Constant. The Norwegian Ambassador is Mr. Oug Bontzer who resides in Cairo (Petra photos)

Jordanian delegation to take part in ILO meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation representing the Ministry of Labour, Jordanian employers and workers will take part in the 21st meeting of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) due to be held in Geneva in the coming month.

Labour and Social Development Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan, who will lead the delegation, presided over a meeting of the delegation members in order to review the subjects to be discussed and measures to be taken to coordinate Jordan's stand with those of the other Arab countries, and the Asian group at the ILO meeting.

ILO's resolutions issued in 1975 and 1980 on Israel's arbitrary measures against Arab labourers in the occupied Arab territories were reviewed at the meeting, the minister said after the meeting.

Four of the members of the delegation will represent the government, five will represent employers and three will represent Jordanian workers at the Geneva meeting.

Row erupts over Lewis remark that Sharon revealed invasion plan

TEL AVIV (AP) — A controversy erupted Friday over a statement by the outgoing U.S. ambassador that former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon revealed his plans for a Lebanon invasion in advance to the American government.

Police Minister Chaim Bar-Lev, a former chief of staff of the Israeli army, said on Israel Army Radio that he considered Mr. Sharon's action in exposing the plans to a foreign government to be "scandalous."

Israeli newspapers reported that as a result of U.S. ambassador's claims and Sharon's denials, demands are growing for a commission of inquiry into the whole conduct of the Lebanon war.

The daily Yedioth Ahronoth said Communication Minister Amnon Rubinstein planned to renew his call for an inquiry because of the U.S. envoy's revelation, despite the government's previous decision not to hold an inquiry.

In an interview Wednesday night on Israel television, Mr. Samuel Lewis said that six months before Israel's June 1982 invasion of Lebanon, Sharon told American officials of his plans to send the Israeli army into Beirut to destroy the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Lewis said during the interview that at a meeting with former U.S. Middle East envoy Philip Habib in December 1981, Sharon "explained in some hypothetical detail a concept" of a large-scale invasion plan to reach Beirut.

Mr. Lewis said that Sharon "explained in some hypothetical detail a concept" of a large-scale invasion plan to reach Beirut. He said that Sharon "explained in some hypothetical detail a concept" of a large-scale invasion plan to reach Beirut.

He (Habib) made it extraordinarily clear to Sharon that this was an unthinkable proposition as far as the U.S. government was concerned," Mr. Lewis said.

Sharon, a member of the right-wing Likud Bloc, resigned as defence minister in February 1983 after a government inquiry said he was negligent in failing to prevent Israeli-backed Lebanese Falangist militiamen from massacring hundreds of Palestinians in Beirut's Sabra and Shatila refugee camps. Sharon is now minister of trade

Eden wanted Nasser murdered, aide says

LONDON (R) — The British Prime Minister who launched the Suez invasion of 1956 once said he wanted President Nasser of Egypt murdered, according to one of his ministers.

Anthony Eden made the remark six months before the abortive Anglo-French invasion which followed Col. Nasser's nationalisation of the Suez Canal, said Sir Anthony Nutting.

In a television interview being shown next month, Nutting, Eden's Foreign Office minister, said he was horrified when Eden telephoned him on an open line at London's Savoy Hotel where he was dining and demanded:

"What is all this poppycock you

have sent me about isolation and quarantining Nasser? Can't you understand, and if you can't understand will you come to the cabinet and tell me why, that I want Nasser murdered."

Nutting, who resigned over the Suez debacle, said he was shocked. Eden himself resigned two months after the invasion.

In 1975 a former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) man, Miles Copeland, said he discussed with Eden frequently "but not seriously" the possibility of shooting or poisoning Nasser.

Eden, who died in 1977, said at the time: "This is a load of rubbish. A lot of wild stuff." Col. Nasser died in office in 1970.

Libya denies links with Cairo embassy bomb plot

BEIRUT (R) — Libya's official news agency JANA Friday rejected Egyptian charges that Libya was involved in a plot to blow up the U.S. embassy in Cairo.

In a commentary by its political editor, JANA said the Egyptian government was trying to divert attention from the labour of the new popular revolution in Egypt by resorting to this faded type of false claim.

Egyptian security sources said Thursday a Libyan agent arrested in a plot to blow up the U.S. embassy had been promised half a million dollars if he succeeded. JANA, monitored here, said anti-Israeli protests at a recent Cairo Book Fair had embarrassed Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The Egyptian security sources said the arrested man belonged to a hard-line Palestinian faction led by Abu Nidal, who was formerly based in Iraq and is now thought to live in Syria.

Cairo has repeatedly accused Libya of plotting sabotage in Egypt.

The Interior Ministry said the agent had arrived in Alexandria on April 20 with a car carrying

explosives. Egyptian security agents had defused the bomb and monitored his movements and contact with a Syrian-based group, the statement said.

The ministry did not name the intended target, but the security sources said it was the U.S. embassy in the fashionable Garden City district.

The building was sealed off by anti-terrorist squads and concrete blocks have been built around it, apparently to protect it from explosive-laden vehicles.

The agent had intended to strike at two pm on Wednesday in order to hit the maximum number of victims, the ministry said.

The statement said security measures had been tightened around Cairo's Garden City diplomatic district as a precaution in case another bomber was still at large.

The ministry did not name the agent nor say if he had been arrested. It said he had been recruited to work for the Syrian group by another Libyan agent in a foreign country, with which Egyptian police were now in contact regarding the case.

OAU warns of millions of deaths due to starvation

ADDIS ABABA (R) — The Organisation of African Unity (OAU), marks its 22nd anniversary Saturday with a warning by its secretary-general, Peter Onu, that millions of Africans are on the verge of starving to death.

In an anniversary message released Friday by OAU headquarters in the Ethiopian capital, Mr. Onu asked the continent's 500 million people to donate something, however small, "to alleviate the intense human suffering and misery" caused by famine, drought and disaster.

"Some of our compatriots have died or are about to die and millions are on the verge of starvation because they have no food to eat," Mr. Onu said.

There is no official death toll from the drought which has ravaged farmland in many parts of

Africa, but tens of thousands are believed to have perished.

"In Ethiopia alone, nine million of the country's 41 million people need food aid because a three-year drought has ruined their land and killed their livestock."

Mr. Onu expressed concern about the effect of food shortages in 34 African countries on young people. "The future leaders of this continent."

According to some studies, 60 per cent of Africans hit by famine or drought are people under 14 years of age, posing the likelihood of a serious generation gap in coming years.

While Western countries provide the bulk of international relief to drought-affected states, OAU has set its own emergency fund which should be operational this year.

Jewish terrorist convicted of bomb plot

TEL AVIV (R) — A court has convicted a Jewish terrorist of plotting to blow up the Al Aqsa Mosque, Islam's holiest shrine in Jerusalem, and wound Arab mayors, amid right-wing calls he and 25 others standing trial be freed.

Menachem Neuberger, 29, admitted guilt in Israel's current Jewish terrorist trial after charges of criminal attack and membership of a terrorist organisation were dropped in plea bargaining.

Wearing the skullcap of a religious Jew, he told the court he had made a mistake in joining the plots. His sentence will be announced later. The court ended its session after two other defendants refused to testify in protest over Israel's release on Monday of 1,150 Palestinian commandos, including convicted killers, for three Israeli soldiers.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Friday that 25 religious

Jews accused of terror attacks on Palestinians were "basically excellent boys who have done much for the nation."

Shamir, who had called on the government to pardon the group, told Israel Army Radio: "We're not dealing here with people who set out to commit some ordinary crime or murder out of irrational urges."

"We're dealing here with a more or less organised group which had reached an ideological conclusion that, for the sake of the state and the people, such deeds must be done," Shamir said.

Six of the 25 men are standing trial on murder charges for an indiscriminate shooting attack on a Palestinian university campus in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron. Three students were killed and 35 were wounded in the July 1983 attack.

Eight others arrested in what Israelis call "the Jewish underground" case have been sentenced since the trial opened last year. Their sentences have ranged from 15 months to 10 years for an unfilled plot to blow up the Dome of the Rock, one of the Islam's most sacred shrines, in Jerusalem's Old City.

The others face charges that include attempted murder for car bombings that maimed two Palestinian mayors and blinded an Israeli policeman in 1980.

"We won't tolerate the presence of organised groups which out of ideological motives use violent means and deny the authority of the state," Shamir told the army radio.

But he said that "the conventional method of trial, prolonged imprisonment or other penalties is not an adequate answer."

Palestinians hold out against Amal attacks

(Continued from page 1)

In Damascus, pro-Syrian Palestinian leaders rejected a ceasefire proposed during negotiations sponsored by Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

Amal wants the fighters in Beirut to turn over their weapons to the Sixth Brigade, which would control security in the camps. The pro-Syrian groups said in a statement they want Amal to withdraw from the camps and have the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and its allies police the ceasefire.

Amal militiamen around Bourj Al Barajneh pumped machine gunfire into the shantytown camp all day Friday. But they still have made no move to launch an assault on the heavily defended camp. In its statement issued in Dam-

ascus, the PFLP said "... all Palestinian revolutionary groups have formed suicide squads with the aim of inflicting the heaviest losses possible among attacking forces in defence of the camps."

The PFLP also said no agreement had been reached on a ceasefire to end the bitter fighting.

The PFLP statement was followed by another, by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), which said an Amal claim that a ceasefire has been reached was not true and "only intended to mislead world opinion."

The DFLP also said its fighters, based in the PSP-controlled Shouf mountains overlooking Beirut, were barred by Syria from helping their kinsmen in the camps.

Guns in hills above Beirut Thursday launched a rocket and artillery barrage on the city's sou-

thern suburbs in a second day of attacks on Amal-dominated areas.

Beirut airport was at a standstill Friday after being hit twice in a flare-up in shelling. Airport sources said there were no flights in or out all day.

Army troops at the refugee camps turned reporters away as machine-gun fire and explosions echoed from inside.

The fighting coincided with eyewitness reports of abductions and beatings of Palestinians in the capital.

The DFLP said however its men had captured 12 of their opponents in Beirut Friday, some of them Lebanese army troops and the others Amal militiamen.

A senior DFLP official told Reuters in Damascus the 12 were taken captive as they attacked

Palestinian camps.

Meanwhile, Algeria has sent an emissary to Beirut to help seek a peaceful solution to the conflict between Amal and the Palestinians in the camps, official sources told the Associated Press.

The envoy is Sadek Zouaten, who is in charge of Palestinian affairs in the central administration of the Algerian National Liberation Front, the country's only political party. He left for Beirut Thursday.

Bourredine Kepram, the secretary-general of the Algerian Foreign Ministry, on Thursday met Lebanese and Syrian diplomats and the PLO representative to express Algeria's "very grave preoccupation" over the situation in Beirut.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.					
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 77111-19 MAIN CHANNEL Morning Programmes 18:00 Koran 18:20 Tom Sawyer 18:30 Arabic Film 18:30 Children's Programme 18:40 Local Cooking Programme 17:40 Religious Programme 17:35 World of Oddsities 18:05 Religious Programme 18:45 Religious Programme 19:00 Arabic Series 19:35 Prayers 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 A Special Programme on the Occasion of Independence Day 21:05 Programme Review 21:20 Ramadan Contest 21:45 Independence Day Celebrations 22:25 Programme Review 22:45 Local Programme 23:00 Poetry 23:10 News in Arabic 23:18 Religious Programme 01:00 Religious Programme FOREIGN CHANNEL 17:30 German Programme 18:00 French Programme: des chiffres et des lettres 18:20 L'ecole des fans 19:00 News in French 19:15 In Pendule 19:30 News in Hebrew 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Vietnam 21:10 Saturday Variety Show 22:00 News in English 22:30 Feature Film: Wait Till Your Mother Gets Home RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & Partly on 950 KHz, SW Tel: 77111-19 07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newsdesk 08:00 Morning show 10:00 News Summary 10:05 Pop Session 12:00 News Summary 12:03 Pop Session Contd. 13:00 News Summary 13:05 Pop Session contd. 14:00 News Bulletin 14:10 Jordan Weekly 14:30 Music 15:00 Concert Hour 16:00 News Summary 16:05 Instrumentals 16:30 Old Favourites		17:00 Talking Points 17:50 Animal Vegetable Mineral 18:00 News Summary 18:05 Top Twenty 19:00 News 19:30 Date with a Star 20:00 The 15th Century A.H. 20:30 The Young Sound 21:00 News Summary 21:05 25 Years of Rock 21:55 News Summary 22:00 The Blues 22:40 News Summary 23:05 Country Music 23:57 News Headlines 24:00 Close Down BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1413 KHz 07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 Grand National Preview 07:45 Financial News 07:55 Reflections 08:00 World News News Summary 08:30 About Britain 08:45 The World Today 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Album Time 10:00 World News 10:09 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 From the West 10:45 Network U.K. 11:00 World News 11:09 Reflections 11:15 A Jolly Good Show 12:00 World News 12:09 British Press Review 12:15 World Today 12:30 Financial News 12:40 Look Ahead 12:45 Romantic Piano 13:00 News Summary: Grand National Preview 13:15 Letter from Amman 13:30 People and Politics 14:00 News About Britain 14:15 About Britain 14:30 Meridian 15:00 Radio Newsdesk 15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 World News 16:09 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30 Network U.K. 16:45 Saturday Special 17:00 News Summary: Music News 17:30 Album Time 17:45 News Summary 18:00 Radio Newsdesk 18:15 Saturday Special 19:00 World News 19:09 Commentary 19:15 Saturday Special 20:00 News Summary 20:45 Sports Round-up 21:00 Newsdesk 21:30 Play of the Week: Indian Summer 22:00 Days In The Trees 23:00 World News 23:09 24 Hours: News Summary 23:30 Jazz for the Asking 24:00 News Summary: In Spite of Circumstances 00:15 What's New 00:30 People and Politics 01:00 World News 01:09 From our own Correspondent 01:15 Football Highlights 01:30 News Ideas 01:40 Reflections 01:45 Sports Round-up 02:00 World News 02:09 Commentary 02:15 Letterbox 02:30 Meridian		TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITIONS * An exhibition on famous German composers (Heinrich Schütz, Johann Bach, George Handel) at the Goethe Institute. * "Visages de la Provence" at the French Cultural Centre. * The fourth exhibition of Turkish products and Turkish fashion show at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel. CULTURAL WEEK CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre, Tel: 6610267 American Centre 644371 American Cultural Library 641520 British Council 6361478 French Cultural Centre 637009 Goethe Institute 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre 644203 Spanish Cultural Centre 624049 Turkish Cultural Centre 639777 Haya Arts Centre 665195 Husseini Youth City 6671816 Y.W.C.A. 641793 Y.W.M.A. 664251 Amman Municipal Library 637111 University of Jordan Library 643555 CHURCHES St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman, tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Luwdeh, 637440. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Hussein, 661757. Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 623541. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabbal Amman, 625303. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 775261. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751. Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsi, 816534. Evangelical Lutheran Church Jabbal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Seir), Tel. 811295. MUSEUMS Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mutasab, Jabbal Luwdeh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128. PRAYER TIMES 03:56 Fajr 05:32 Sunrise/Duha 12:33 Dhuhr 16:14 Maghrib 19:34 Isha 21:10 Isha		QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS 03:25 Belgrade, Istanbul (JU) 07:25 London, Laraca (BA) 10:30 Agaba (RJ) 10:30 Dubai, Karachi (RJ) 10:45 Cairo (RJ) 10:45 Kuwait (RJ) 10:55 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 10:55 Dhahran (RJ) 11:20 Beirut (RJ, MEA) 11:45 Riyadh (RJ) 11:45 Singapore, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 11:50 Laraca, Damascus (RJ) 12:00 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF) 12:05 Cairo (MS) 14:35 Kuwait (KU) 18:15 Baghdad (IA) 18:30 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ) 18:30 Paris, Damascus (AF) 18:50 Cairo (RJ) 19:55 Rome, Damascus (AZ) 20:45 Tripoli (RJ) 21:00 Frankfurt (LH) 01:10 Baghdad (RJ) DEPARTURES 04:15 Istanbul, Belgrade (JU) 06:20 Frankfurt (LH) 07:30 Beirut (RJ, MEA) 08:15 Laraca, Damascus (RJ) 09:10 London (BA) 09:30 Athens (OA) 12:15 Tripoli (RJ) 12:45 Geneva, Madrid (RJ) 12:50 Cairo (MS) 13:00 London (RJ) 13:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ) 13:30 Rome, Paris (RJ) 13:45 Frankfurt (RJ) 14:00 Bahrain (GF) 14:30 Cairo (RJ) 15:35 Kuwait (RJ) 17:50 Baghdad (IA) 20:30 Kuwait (RJ) 21:10 Baghdad (RJ) 21:15 Jeddah (RJ) 21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) 21:45 Cairo (RJ) 02:30 Laraca, Bucharest (RO)		MARITIME TRAFFIC Regular-line ships docking at Agaba port: — Motah — Mont Ventoux — Alfa — Vishva Prayas — Cygnus Ace — Hind Bolis — Lanka Mahapala Amin Kavar and Sons Company, Tel. 622324-9 at your service. MONEY EXCHANGE Thursday rates Local selling rates in Jls Belgian franc 65 / 65.5 Dutch guilder 115.5 / 116.4 Egyptian guinea 288.3 / 297.3 French franc 62.7 / 63 Iraqi dinar 301 / 308.6 Japanese yen (for 100) 160.3 / 161.6 Kuwaiti dinar 1323 / 1331.6 Lebanese lira 25 / 26 Omani rial 1155 / 1163.3 Qatari rial 109.6 / 110.1 Saudi riyal 110.5 / 111.3 Swedish crown 45.1 / 45.5 Swiss franc 155.1 / 156.3 Syrian lira 36 / 37 UAE dirham 109.6 / 110.1 U.S. sterling pound 505.5 / 509.5 U.S. dollar 409 / 405.5 W. German mark 136.2 / 131.2 WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. It will be fair, with slight increase in temperature. Winds will be north-westerly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm. Amman 17 / 30 Agaba 22 / 30 Deserts 16 / 33 Jordan Valley 19 / 35 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27.7, Agaba 37.5. Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Agaba 21 per cent.		EMERGENCIES Amman Governorate 891228 Amman Civil Defence 198,199 Civil Defence 1st 271293, 273131 Civil Defence Quweishim 770733 Ambulance 193, 775111 Amman downtown fire brigade 770910 First aid 620341 Blood bank 778303 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 623900 Police rescue 192, 621, 111, 637777 Police headquarters 639141 Traffic police 8963901 Electric power Co. 636381/4, 624881 Municipal water complaints 7711258 Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 533060 HOSPITALS Husseini Medical Centre 81381/352 Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6 Al-Khal Maternity, J. Amman Jabbal Amman Maternity 643412 Malhas, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shamsani 6641714 Shamsani Hospital 8458/645 University Hospital 669131 Al-Muhsen Hospital 6672279 The Islamic, Abdali 6661277 Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646 Italian, Al-Muhsen 7751126 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 891611/5 Arzy, Marks GENERAL Jordan Television 77311/19 Radio Jordan 77411/19 Ministry of Tourism 642311 Hotel complaints 666412 Phone complaints 661176 Telephone Information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 10 Overseas calls 17 Repair service 11	
MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in Jls per kg. Apple (American) 250 / 260 Apricots 280 / 290 Banana 280 / 290 Banana (Mukammal) 240 / 210 Beans 200 / 170 Broad beans 100 / 70 Cabbage 70 / 50 Carrot (without leaves) 110 / 80 Cauliflower 80 / 60 Cucumber (large) 80 / 60 Cucumber (small) 140 / 110 Eggplant (large) 100 / 70 Eggplant (small) 100 / 70 Garlic 200 / 170 Lemon 320 / 280 Mallow 370 / 230 Marrow (large) 150 / 120 Marrow (small) 250 / 200 Onion (dry) 100 / 70 Onion (green) 160 / 130 Parsley 100 / 70 Peas 210 / 180 Peas (American) 600 / 540 Pepper (sweet) 180 / 140 Pepper (hot) 240 / 200 Potatoes 160 / 130 Radishes 100 / 70 Sweet Melon 300 / 250 Spinach 140 / 100 Tomatoes 90 / 60 Vine leaves 280 / 240 Water Melon 140 / 100											

King contacts hospital to inquire after Haddadin

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has voiced concern over the health of Dr. Munther Haddadin, the president of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA), who was shot whilst at work in his office on Wednesday.

The King made telephone contact with the director of the Armed Forces Royal Medical Services to inquire about Dr. Haddadin who has been under treatment at the Al Hussein Medical Centre.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince

Hassan, the Regent, Thursday visited Dr. Haddadin and hospital sources said that, although he was still under intensive care, Dr. Haddadin has been steadily improving.

According to a report in Al Dustour Arabic daily newspaper, Dr. Haddadin will be sent to the United States in a few weeks time for further treatment. The report also said that the assailant who shot Dr. Haddadin was still at large.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent cables Argentine president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent has sent a cable of good wishes to Argentine President Raul Alfonsín on his country's independence anniversary. In the cable Prince Hassan wished the president success in the leadership of his country and further progress and prosperity in Argentina.

Lower House to meet Monday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament is due to hold a session on Monday evening to tackle several draft laws on its agenda. The House, chaired by its speaker Akel Al Fayez, is expected to look into the People's Army law, an amended law to the economic organisation for retired army personnel and the Ports Corporation law.

Building collapses killing two workers

JERASH (J.T.) — Two Egyptian workers died and two others were injured when an old house in Jerash collapsed as they were trying to pull it down in the course of construction work in the area. A report in the Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper Friday said that two more workers escaped unhurt from the building and were pulled out by the rescue men from the local Civil Defence Department.

Decree approves information agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving the information agreement signed between Jordan and Egypt. The agreement aims to promote existing cultural and academic relations between the two countries and also to exchange experience in education, higher education, culture and arts.

Korean firm to receive medal

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued awarding the president of the Korean construction company Sam Yang the Independence Medal of the Second Order in recognition of the company's role in executing a number of developmental projects in Jordan.



Decorated vehicles tour main streets in Amman Friday night as part of the anniversary of the independence day (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

British parliamentarians end investigative tour

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of British parliamentarians left Amman Thursday after briefings from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent on current efforts exerted by Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to reactivate the peace process in the Middle East.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Peter Bruinvels, one of the four member-delegation of the Conservative party, said that the Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali, Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament Speakers Akel Al Fayez and Ahmad Al Lawzi and the Armed Forces Commander-

in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shabab had been the delegation on the 11th day of their visit to the region.

The delegation looked into the situation in the region and the latest developments in the peace process in the wake of the Feb. 11 joint Jordan-PLO accord on a common strategy to peacefully solve the Palestinian question, Mr. Bruinvels said.

The four members of the parliamentary team said that they felt the sincerity of Jordanian officials and their determination to secure a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Bruinvels, Mr. George Gardiner, Mr. Andrew Mackay and Mr. Stefan Terfeszki expressed their support for His Majesty King

Hussein's peace initiative based on the Feb. 11 agreement. They also said that they would convey Jordan's perspective to their colleagues in the British parliament.

"Most of the Western community is unaware of what is really going on in the region," the parliamentarians commented. "In the process of gaining support for the King's initiative, it is necessary for all concerned parties to recognise both Israel's right to live in security and peace and the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Palestinians," they concluded.

The four members are expected to pay another visit to the Kingdom with other parliamentarians. This visit is in response to an invitation from the Jordanian parliament.

GUVS plans centres for the aged, handicapped

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Jordan hopes to expand its services through a centre catering for the needs of handicapped children, and by opening a second centre for old people. Chairman of the GUVS board of directors Abdullah Al Khatib was quoted as saying in an interview with the Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper.

He said that the GUVS campaign to collect one piastre a person per day is designed to finance

the expansion of present 'Amal' centre caring for children with multi-handicaps to enable the centre to accommodate 200 instead of the present 40 inmates. Funds collected through this nation-wide campaign are also required for starting a village for old people, Dr. Khatib said.

GUVS also has plans to support the establishment of centre for the treatment of cancer and end-efforts to establish a non-profit university in Jordan, both considered as social and voluntary

services to the community, Dr. Khatib added.

He said that GUVS has allocated JD 200,000 to help charitable societies in both banks of Jordan and centres which care for handicapped people. In addition, he said, JD 80,000 has been allocated for emergency aid to West Bank institutions. All these funds depend largely on contributions by individuals, public and private institutions and the proceeds of selling lottery tickets, Dr. Khatib pointed out.

Palestinians appeal for end to attacks on Beirut camps

(Continued from page 1)

The PLO chairman appealed to all "honourable men all over the world" to safeguard the camps from "these barbaric attacks."

"What Amal militiamen, with the assistance of pro-Syrian groups, are doing to the Palestinian camps is part of their secret agreement with Israel to abolish all PLO fighters as well as the Palestinian people in Lebanon," he said.

Mr. Arafat stressed that his appeal to the United Nations Security Council to debate the Beirut violence involving Palestinians ran into opposition Thursday, because Lebanon's envoy to the U.N., who is "under Syrian pressure," contended that "Lebanon should ask for such a debate since all what has been happening is on Lebanese territory."

Nonetheless, Mr. Zuhdi Terzi, the PLO's permanent observer at the U.N., was quoted by Reuters as saying he was trying to find "a way around the objections."

Mr. Terzi acknowledged to reporters that either he or Mr. Arafat must have a U.N. member to ask for a council meeting under the U.N. rules, and the PLO, which has only observer status at the world body, has no authority to call for such a meeting.

Egypt is the only Arab member of the 15 nations council, but any U.N. member state may request the convening that body.

Mr. Terzi left New York Friday to attend an urgent meeting of the council of the Arab League Council which is expected to be attended by Mr. Arafat who called for the meeting in an attempt to seek an end to the Beirut attacks.

In reply to a question on Amal leader Nabih Berri's assertion that Mr. Arafat has been sending PLO fighters back into Lebanese camps, the PLO chairman said that "it was their right to go back to Lebanon, back to their houses and wives, especially since all of those who have returned carry Lebanese identity cards."

"I cannot prevent them from returning, but when it applies to me I am definitely not returning back to Lebanon," he said. However, "I have the right to safeguard half a million of Palestinians living in refugee camps in Lebanon."

Mr. Berri has claimed that Mr. Arafat was planning to return to Lebanon.

"Some factions in the PLO have

aided the Syrian conspiracy and deceit against all the Palestinian people," Mr. Arafat said in reply to a question on whether the participation of some Palestinian dis-

sidents, who are backed by Syria and who are helping Arafat loyalists in their fighting against the Amal militiamen and other pro-Syrian forces, would lead to any political reconciliation with PLO factions.

Mr. Arafat said "one of the most important things to be realised throughout the massacres that have been carried out against the Palestinian refugees is the solid proof that Palestinians unite when it comes to the matter of defending themselves and their existence."

Mr. Arafat also pointed out that some Syrian-backed PLO factions were asked by Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam to gather the weapons of the Palestinians who are loyal to Mr. Arafat in the west Beirut camps. These Palestinian factions refused Mr. Khaddam's requests saying "we are not policemen to gather our peoples' arms in such a bloody circumstances," Mr. Arafat said.

In Tunisia meanwhile, Salah Khalaf, who is number two in Fateh, the main PLO grouping, said Thursday that Amal would not be "content" with gaining control of the Sabra, Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh camps.

Mr. Khalaf, told a press conference in Carthage that "Palestinians were not only fighting Amal," charging that Syria was "throwing everything against us."

Mr. Khalaf also repeated a statement by Mr. Arafat that the PLO was not seeking to return to Lebanon as was claimed by Mr. Berri. "We are not thinking of going back to Lebanon because our people are already there," he said.

Mr. Khalaf was also quoted by Reuters as saying that attacks by Amal had led to Palestinian PLO anti-Arafat Syrian-based PLO fighters back into Lebanese camps, the PLO chairman said that "it was their right to go back to Lebanon, back to their houses and wives, especially since all of those who have returned carry Lebanese identity cards."

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Parades, festivals mark 39th anniversary of Independence Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan today celebrates the 39th anniversary of the Kingdom's Independence Day and to mark the occasion parades and festivals were held in the governorates and towns.

Congratulatory cables

On the occasion, King Hussein received cables from kings, heads of state and emirs of Arab, Islamic and friendly countries in which they expressed their congratulations and wished the King continuing good health and the people of Jordan further progress and prosperity under the King's leadership.

Cables were received from Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id of Oman, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, Lebanese President Amin Al Gemayel, United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan, UAE heir-apparent Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Zayed Al Nahayan, UAE Vice-President and Premier Sheikh Rashid Ibn Sa'id Al Maktum and Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa. The King also received cables from Turkish President Kenan Evren, General Mohammad Zia Ul Haq of Pakistan, President Hassan Mohammad Ershad of Bangladesh, Emperor Hiro Hito of Japan, U.S. President Ronald Reagan and the supreme Soviet praesidium.

Among those sending cables to the King were West German President Richard von Weizsacker, Italian President Sandro Pertini, the Vietnamese head of state, Cuban President Fidel Castro, the South Korean president, Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, President of the Republic of India Giani Zail Singh and the presidents of Trinidad, Tobago and Haiti.

The King also received a number of congratulatory cables from senior government officials and heads of official and non-official bodies in Jordan in which they expressed their good wishes and congratulations to King Hussein on the occasion.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali, speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Akel Al Fayez and director generals of the Civil Defence, General Intelligence and Public Security departments and a number of officials also sent cables to the King and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

Several national dances accompanied by national folkloric songs and music were held Friday at the Fourth Circle of Jabal Amman, Ras Al Ain and near the Municipality.

The largest celebration was held in Amman Friday evening when a flower procession passed through the streets of the capital. Nearly 45 vehicles representing different companies and businesses and other institutions in Jordan took part in the procession which passed through main streets and ended at the sports city.

Also in Amman the first Balqa Governorate industrial exhibition was opened Friday at the Professional Association Complex by Salt Mayor Abdullah Razzaq Nsour.

Twenty manufacturing companies are participating in the exhibition which will run for five days and which marks the governorate's celebrations of Independence Day.

The exhibition includes medical products, food stuffs, construction materials, clothes and agricultural products. During the opening ceremony the audience was entertained by folkloric troupes and musicians.

In Salt boy scouts and girl guides organised a procession which passed through the main streets carrying posters and portraits of King Hussein. National dances and music recitals were held in the city attended by the mayors of Salt and Fuhes, representatives of local government departments and a large public audience.

In Zarqa a similar celebration was held and Zarqa Municipality organised a variety show for Friday which included national folkloric dances and songs and music by the army band.

In Irbid, the army band played music in the sports city attended by the mayor, governor and other officials. The Youth Welfare Organisation organised 'other' ceremonies on the occasion in towns near Irbid, and on Saturday a procession will pass through the streets of Irbid.

To mark the anniversary, a three-day military exhibition was

opened in Irbid Thursday evening. On display are various types of weapons used by the Jordanian Armed Forces. The exhibition was opened by Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin and was attended by local government officials, the director of police and representatives of various sectors in the governorate.

On the eve of Independence Day, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra issued a statement outlining the development and progress Jordan has achieved since Trans-Jordan was established in 1921 under the leadership of King Hussein's grandfather, Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein.

The statement from Petra also said that King Hussein has helped Jordan progress from a country with limited resources to a developed one and that the King charted a clear-cut policy, derived from the principles of the Great Arab Revolt which his great grandfather Al Hussein Ibn Ali launched.

The statement also said that the Kingdom's policy, as charted by King Hussein, was based on Arab solidarity and adherence to national and pan Arab principles and therefore Jordan stood by Iraq in its just war against Iran and also by Syria in its war with Israel in 1973 and in 1956, when Jordan stood by Egypt during the U.S.-British-French aggression.

Petra also said that as part of Jordan's continuous endeavours to find a just and comprehensive settlement to the Palestine question, Jordan made an agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Feb. 11, 1985 to move jointly towards peace on the basis of land for peace in accordance with international resolutions and on the basis of safeguarding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people under the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

On the economic front, Jordan has succeeded in achieving its development plans and high rates of growth in all fields, the Petra statement concluded.

U.S. 'sincere' about achieving Mideast peace, Reagan tells Jordanian envoy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's newly-appointed ambassador to the United States, Mr. Mohammad Kamal Wednesday presented his credentials to U.S. President Ronald Reagan. Mr. Reagan and Mr. Kamal exchanged the following remarks during the ceremony:

Mr. Reagan: "It is with great pleasure that I accept your letter of credence. I thank you also for providing the letter of recall of ambassador Izzidin."

Our two countries have indeed nurtured not only a close relationship but true friendship, even during every difficult times. I share His Majesty King Hussein's resolute determination to deepen the strong ties which already bind the people of Jordan and the United States.

"There is deep respect and friendship in the United States for the Hashemite Kingdom and the unique role it is Jordan's destiny to play in the Middle East and in securing peace."

Mr. Kamal: "I have the honour to present to you, Mr. President, my letter of credence as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United States of America."

As you are aware, Mr. President, Jordan has maintained over the years sincere friendship and close relations with the United States of America, in spite of upheavals in the region and occasional disappointments.

"It is the sincere determination of His Majesty King Hussein and the government and people of Jordan to strengthen and promote the existing good relations between our two countries."

It is obvious Mr. President, that a strong Jordan is vital for peace and security in the region, and we are confident that there will be greater understanding and appreciation of this principle.

"Mr. President, you are a great president of a great nation; and you are well known to have a deep sense of justice. It is our hope that the entire Middle East will benefit from these noble values which you cherish. I should like to assure you, Mr. President, that I will personally do my utmost to reinforce and promote the existing good relations between Jordan and the United States of America."

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Local writer wins 1984 Spanish poetry award

By Olga Mikhail
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Jordanian poet Mohammad Al Qaisi has won the 1984 Spanish poetry award "Ibn Jafaya" and received the award at a ceremony held at the Spanish Cultural Centre in Amman.

Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Emilio Menendez Del Valle presented the prize to Mr. Al Qaisi on behalf of the Spanish-Arab Institute for Culture in Madrid. The institute annually presents two prizes, the "Ibn Zaidoun" poetry award, to the best Arab and Spanish poets of the year.

Mr. Al Qaisi, who is of Palestinian origin, has won this award for his volume of poetry "Houses in the Horizon" which talks about the sufferings of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories.

In a brief speech at the ceremony, the Spanish ambassador referred to the historical links between the Arab and Spanish nations and called for further development of their bilateral ties and cultural cooperation.

Mr. Del Valle expressed happiness at presenting this prize to a Palestinian poet which, he said, will stress and strengthen the power of culture between both the Spanish and Palestinian people.

"At this moment," the ambassador said, "while we are honouring a Palestinian poet, several attacks are being launched against the Palestinian people in their camps in Lebanon. We deeply feel the tragedy of these people and strongly recommend quick action to ensure the safety of the people inhabiting the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. On behalf of my government, I strongly condemn the attacks and the barbaric practices against the Palestinian people in Lebanon," he added.

Mr. Al Qaisi delivered a short speech at the ceremony in which he thanked the ambassador and the Spanish-Arab Institute for Culture for their confidence and appreciation. Mr. Al Qaisi expressed his gratitude at receiving the award which carries the name of "Ibn Jafaya".

Mr. Al Qaisi questioned: "what is the use of writing if we are facing

continuous disaster and in the absence of proper treatment of writing in the Arab World."

Mr. Al Qaisi went on to say that he believes poetry to be an essential part in daily life which helps in expressing suffering and at the same time it is a hope for a better life in the Arab countries.

Mr. Al Qaisi has been writing poetry for the last twenty years. He has published 12 volumes of poetry, most of which interpret the sufferings of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause.

Besides this award, Mr. Al Qaisi has been presented with the Jordanian award "Arar", by the Jordan Writers' Society. In an interview with the Jordan Times, the poet said: "As a Palestinian I am very committed to the Palestinian cause, therefore my poetry is to a large extent politically committed to this just cause. Through my poetry, I always try and express my commitment to Palestine as a Palestinian who suffered, like most of my people, from the continuous aggression practised against us by Israel."

Jordan Times



ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Appeals to no avail

THE CONDEMNATION of the Shi'ite attacks on Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and the appeals issued by various sources calling for help to the Palestinians now exposed to a great tragedy have not yet achieved any results.

The Red Cross teams sent to evacuate the wounded people from the camps have not been allowed to carry out their humanitarian mission. The Arab enemies of the Palestinians are writing a very gloomy chapter of Arab history with their criminal actions against their own brothers and kinsmen.

How can the Arab nation expect other countries and foreign organisations to come to their aid while they continue to carry out a fratricidal war against the Palestinians and preventing any help to reach them.

The Shi'ites who are carrying out the attacks backed by some Arab circles will no doubt pay high price for their actions because they are in fact implementing a conspiracy against the Palestinian people.

Al Dustour: Four days of shelling

FOR THE fourth consecutive day, the refugee camps in Beirut are being shelled and bombarded by barbaric forces and enemies of the Arab nation.

The Shi'ite Amal militia involved in besieging and attacking the camps are proving beyond doubt now that they are engaged in carrying out a conspiracy to liquidate the Palestinian people.

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat said in a press conference in Amman that Amal movement has concluded a secret agreement with the Israeli enemy which provides among other things protection for the Israeli forces now evacuating the regions of South Lebanon. Arafat's statement was corroborated by press reports in Israeli newspapers which said that Israel and the Amal movement are linked by common interests.

Therefore, the Shi'ite Amal movement is now involved in a task of liquidating the Palestinians, and thus they are carrying out what Israel has failed to achieve. The Amal movement is thus offering an excellent service to the Israeli enemy.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel is happy

ACCORDING TO the Israeli Jerusalem Post newspaper Israel now has common interests with the Shi'ite Amal movement in Lebanon. The two, it said, have a common interest in keeping the South of Lebanon a zone free from attacks directed against the Israeli forces.

The leader of the Shi'ite Amal movement in Lebanon Nabih Berri has echoed this by saying that his movement will not allow the Palestinians to establish themselves as a force in Lebanon or to carry out attacks on Israel from southern Lebanon. Israel is therefore, much delighted with the developments in Lebanon and the killing of the Palestinian refugees in Beirut.

These attacks going on against the Palestinians are but an implementation of the Israeli Amal agreement. They are designed to liquidate the Palestinians in Lebanon prior to carrying out a partition of the country. These developments are bound to serve the interests of Israel, which always wanted to see a weak Lebanon divided into mini states.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Paying for Arab differences

THE PALESTINIAN people, specially those living in refugee camps, have suffered a lot at the hands of the Israelis and their allies, mainly in Lebanon and Palestine. It seems that they now have to pay the price of differences among Arab governments or leaders of warring factions in Lebanon.

The refugees now being shelled and killed in their camps are the victims of discord among Arab leaders as they had been before the victims of the Israeli ambitious designs in Palestine and Lebanon.

Among all the Arab countries, the voice of Jordan was heard condemning the attacks on the Palestinian refugees in Beirut and calling for intervention to stop the bloodbath. King Hussein announced full coordination with the Palestine Liberation Organisation in rallying the Arab countries at an emergency session with the purpose of enlisting their help in halting the criminal attacks on refugee women and children, who are paying the price of Arab differences without any mercy or concern from Arab countries, and are paying the price of supporting the Lebanese against Israel and defending Lebanese territory in the face of Zionist invasion.

The Palestinians are being rewarded now for the sacrifice that they offered for defending Lebanon and repelling Israeli aggression.

Al Dustour: New Palestinian tragedy

KING HUSSEIN has expressed deep concern over the developments in Lebanon and the attacks on the Palestinian refugee camps near Beirut. He was in fact expressing the feeling of the Jordanian-Palestinian family towards their brothers now being subjected to yet another tragedy.

King Hussein has passed directives to the government to take steps to ensure a speedy move on the Arab and international levels to protect the camps and their residents in Lebanon. The King's concern reflects the feelings of all Jordanians and Palestinians who see in the attacks another attempt by the enemies of the Palestinians to deny them the right to protect their existence.

Jordan and the Palestinians realise the conspiracies being hatched against the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories and in Lebanon and they realise that thwarting such conspiracies and crimes is the responsibility of all the Arab countries backed by the international community.

The Jordanians and Palestinians regard these attacks on their brethren in Beirut as an extension of the Israeli invasion designed to obliterate the Palestinian people.

Prince Hassan: Europe owes Arabs peace efforts

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent Thursday called on the international community to support the Jordanian-Palestinian Feb. 11 agreement and urged condemnation of Israel's repressive policies towards Palestinians in the occupied territories and its settlement plans. In a recorded message to the workshop on the "Economic Development of Jordan: Present Situation and Prospects for Future", which opened at the University of Louvain in the Belgian capital, Brussels, Prince Hassan pointed out the special historical relationship between the Arab World and Europe. Following is the full text of the message:

It is a great pleasure for me to open this workshop on the "Economic Development of Jordan: Present Situation and Prospects for the Future", which has finally materialised after more than two postponement — proving that the mechanism for Euro-Arab cooperation could benefit from an additional dose of appropriate technology. I am gratified that the University of Louvain has pursued the objective of holding this workshop with a measure of far-sightedness and a great deal of patience and goodwill. Thanks are due to Professor Bichara Khader, who has served as an emissary between Yarmouk University and the University of Louvain as well as a faithful bridge between the cultures of Europe and the Arab World. I look forward to reading the published proceedings of the workshop and facilitating the implementation of proposals arising from your discussions.

Since the World War II, Arab-European relations have been evolving towards a convergence of interests, with both Arabs and Europeans bating to come to terms with the newly-created realities of super-power rivalry. In separate ways, Europe and the Arab World have become targets to polarisation. Each turned to the task of identifying its own role and safeguarding its independence, particularly since the process of East-West polarisation itself contained within it the seeds of direct confrontation between the global powers, which, according to Churchill, caused the balance of power in Europe to be replaced by a balance of terror. Though Europeans may currently feel that a nuclear war is unlikely to break out in the heart of Europe, East-West confrontation remains a major and immediate European concern, as such a war might still erupt in the Middle East.

Within such a context of global rivalry and with the demise of the last vestiges of European colonialism, a common trust has gradually emerged between the Arabs and the Europeans, particularly with the growth of understanding on issues that had separated them in the fifties and the early sixties. It was gradually perceived that positive relations could only evolve on the basis of positions that had to be diligently and patiently worked out and identified by the two sides. Thus, in the wake of the October war of 1973 and the Arab oil embargo, Europe and the Arabs embarked on a dialogue aimed at identifying common issues and seeking avenues for cooperation. And although the Euro-Arab dialogue has not yet produced the results originally sought by those who had set it in motion, it has, albeit very slowly, moved towards bridging the gap between aspirations and the realities of an evolving relationship.

In the economic sphere, while Europe's interests are understandably linked to the problem of energy, the Arabs, involved as they are in the process of economic development and nation building, are concerned with long-term economic cooperation and technology transfer. On the latter issue, the complexities inherent in the transfer of technology have tended to vitiate Euro-Arab

cooperation. However, it is encouraging to observe that what in the last decade or two, in the context of the technological relationship between Europe and the Arab World, seemed to be a divergent dialogue, is not coalescing into one of obvious interdependence. Rather than arguing about the merits or demerits of a donor-recipient situation, we now find ourselves in a somewhat comparable straits. Present European concern that the technological divide which separates Europe from the United States and Japan may, in fact, be widening is inducing a greater understanding of the underlying Arab resistance to technological dependency. Although not exactly in the same boat, we are buffeted by the same waters. Consequently, inter-dependence assumes a new dimension in the Euro-Arab dialogue in that, because a major irritant has been diluted, the dialogue can be conducted in a more objective environment.

As we review the progress which several Arab states have made in science and technology, including the establishment of national policies as well as a renewed grouping for regional science and technology policy coordination, we can look to future dialogue with Europe with greater optimism. This optimism is reinforced by the current debate in European circles about the relationship between technology, culture and economic development. Disparities as our several approaches may be, they do indicate that the time is not too far distant when we can, as I do hope we should, develop the rudiments of a shared strategy for future cooperation.

The economic relationship between the Arab World and the European Community (EC) should not be restricted to the import and export of commodities, with the Arab states importing a large portion of their capital and consumer goods from the EC countries while exporting one or two commodities to these countries, mainly oil. A more extensive economic relationship ought to be worked out on a wider base of cooperation in technology transfer and joint ventures by the private sectors in both communities. It need not be limited to individual states but can and should be extended to other parts of Africa and Asia within the concept of a wider cooperation between the North and the South. This, I hasten to add, is not a Quixotic notion. The European Community aid to the Third World increased by 14 per cent in 1983 to reach \$1.4 billion, the highest level ever recorded by the EC for aid flows in one year, but most of this aid went to the world's poorest countries. On the other hand, funds provided by the EC for the Arab countries in the framework of financial and technical cooperation will be regulated by the Euro-Arab Convention for the reciprocal protection and promotion of investment. The EC member states have already given the European Commission the go-ahead to negotiate this arrangement. The talks between representatives from the Arab League and the EC are well advanced, but a final agreement will depend on the political will of both parties. Within the Arab region, Jordan



has played an important economic role. Our economic achievements over the past two decades have been substantial despite the lack of a rich base of natural resources. But our human resources are our major asset.

Sizeable investments in the development of these resources have yielded gratifying results. Since the highly-trained and highly-skilled Jordanian manpower has been in great demand throughout the Arab oil states, to the extent that well over a quarter of a million Jordanians are currently working in these countries. However, although the boom in the oil economies in the last decade has benefited Jordan in various ways, the energy bill has been substantial, as we used to import all of our energy needs. Thus, in order to utilise our trained manpower and central location in the Arab Middle East, we see our future role as an advanced technical, and maintenance base serving the entire region, with particular emphasis on the transfer of advanced technology.

With this record of accomplishments and aspirations, Jordan hopes to build a mutually-beneficial mode of co-operation with the countries of the European Community. European know-how, skilled Jordanian manpower and Arab investment and markets can prove to be a winning trilateral combination. In particular, we believe that middle-sized European contractors and industrialists can benefit from joint ventures with Jordan to serve the region's large markets and to enable us to plan development within a regional dimension. For such an enterprise to succeed, it has to be viewed as a long-term commitment, not what we may refer to as a "contract of generations".

Arab courts, of course, has not been confined to problems of economic development and cooperation. The Arab-Israeli conflict, with the Palestine issue at its core, has dominated the Middle East political scene for the past four decades. It has hampered the political and economic development of the countries in the region, particularly those directly involved. It has contributed to creating conditions that have assumed a global dimension. The continuation of the conflict has intensified various forms of extremism on both the Arab and the Israeli sides.

Jordan's immediate concern is for the beleaguered indigenous Arab population under occupation whose corporate identity

is being threatened by the continuation of Israeli measures of creeping annexation. Israel has pursued a policy of incorporating the West Bank into the concept of "Eretz Israel" by taking advantage of a situation that oscillates between war and sterile talks about peace.

The revitalisation of the Arab identity and the status of the Palestinians under occupation require immediate attention and have to be dealt with by the international community of nations. Otherwise, the consequences are likely to prove disastrous as long as Israel denies these people the right to self-determination. Meron Benvenisti, who served as Israeli deputy mayor of Jerusalem and chairman of the Planning and Building Commission, foresees the dangers inherent in continued state of tension between the two population groups, the Israelis and the Arabs, who will be condemned to living under unequal systems of government, signifying that future generations have to endure the prospect of perpetual conflict.

Action is called for to avert a situation which would only compound the present misery. Whichever option is adopted by the Israeli authorities, the outlook appears extremely alarming, and movement will not be possible unless and until the Arab community of Palestine is accorded the right to self-determination. Our conception of such a right is derived from the aggregate of historical, cultural, social, economic and political rights of a distinct community in its ancestral homeland.

In this regard, the European Community of states is called upon to strive towards an understanding whereby the identity of the West Bank and Gaza is not further prejudiced by persistent occupation measures leading to de facto annexation. The Arab municipalities in the occupied territories are chronically short of money, despite the fact that Jordan has been bearing the cost of public services there. Financial assistance would revive their ailing institutions and services and promote their commercial enterprises.

Israel does not allow funds from the Jordan-PLO Joint Committee in Amman to be used for Palestinian development, because it regards the money as tainted. It has even stopped the disbursement of funds from more disinterested sources. But it may find it difficult to embargo donations from its trading partners in the EC

which could serve both the immediate interests of the people concerned and the fairness of the ultimate settlement.

The European Community has taken a positive stand towards the rights of the Palestinian people.

Article Six of the Venice Declaration of June 13, 1980 addressed the core issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict, by stating without equivocation that "the Palestinian people, who are conscious of existing as such, must be placed in a position, by an appropriate process defined within the framework of the comprehensive peace settlement, to exercise fully their right to self-determination."

As for the PLO, the chosen representative of the Palestinian people and regarded as such by the majority of nations, the Venice Declaration recognises that the PLO will have to be closely associated with the negotiations. The European Community's attitude towards the issue of Jerusalem has not been less objective, in that it refuses any unilateral action regarding its status.

The spiritual reverence accorded to it by the three monotheistic religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam places the Holy City above all considerations of national politics and ideology. One recalls the words of Pope John Paul II:

"Jerusalem today is the object of a dispute... God willing it can become the crossroads of conciliation and peace."

Jordan has continued with its search for peace and has remained committed to a just, comprehensive and durable settlement of the Palestine question. Our commitment to such a peace is underlined by the provisions of Security Council Resolution 242 based on the fundamental principle of the exchange of territory for peace. We resumed our deliberations with the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, from the premise that the chain of historical, cultural, economic and political links that bind the peoples of the two banks of the Jordan should not be broken. Furthermore, there is little doubt that Jordan is the natural choice as a partner not only in the administration of economic aid in the occupied territories but also in working towards the achievement of Palestinian national rights and the determination of the future political status of the West Bank and Gaza.

The close and deep association which has governed the relationship between the peoples of Jordan and Palestine has been repeatedly affirmed. The unity of the two banks, promulgated in 1950, was based on the exercise of self-determination and the expression of free will. The Jordanian Constitution of 1951 stipulated unreservedly that the unification of the two banks would not, in any way, prejudice the outcome of a final settlement of the Palestine question. In the meantime, Jordan has remained determined that Palestinian rights should not be foreclosed or undermined.

On Feb. 11 of this year, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation made a formal bid to meet the problem head on rather than pursue a series of cut-de-sacs. The Jordan-PLO accord is straightforward, genuine and — despite its brevity — comprehensive. It is rooted in international and Arab consensus and it is more than fair to the Israelis. It spells out the substance of peace and suggests a mechanism for achieving it. All its provisions are sanctioned by international legitimacy as well as by time-honoured practices in international relations.

This present opportunity for a durable peace should not be wasted. His Majesty King Hussein has candidly described it as the "last chance for peace." It appears to provide a chance for U.S. and consequently for Western and European credibility, to be restored as well as an opportunity for the growing fanaticism on both the Israeli and the Arab sides to be checked. The British Minister of State, Richard Luce has recently stated that as the Arab-Israeli dispute has dragged on, "extremism has grown on all sides, and will grow further if there are no perceptible moves towards a settlement."

For the Jordanian-PLO accord to succeed, much is expected from the international community. The initial response from the European Community of states, in their statement issued at the end of March 1985, has been encouraging, particularly since it also addressed the two other issues plaguing the region: The Lebanese dilemma and the Iran-Iraq war. The statement signifies that a stable and peaceful Middle East, engaging in a dynamic process of economic growth, can only enhance European prosperity and world peace. A more forceful and effective European role is called for if the peace process is to evolve. The geo-political reality of the European Community, its proximity with the Middle East, its long historical involvement in the area and its present non-partisan role can all contribute to enhancing the prospects of understanding and compromise. Most importantly, the European Community has the power, through its strong relations with its ally, the United States, to induce the latter to adopt a more positive and even-headed approach to the peace process, by confronting the political realities of the area and agreeing to the two principal requirements for peace: Opening a dialogue with the PLO and participating in an international peace conference which would include the permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the conflict, including the PLO. Such an effective and constructive role by the European Community is not a flight of fancy. What it requires is a regeneration of the European will — enfeebled at the moment — to make a contribution to the settlement of a problem whose genesis was largely of European making and whose resolution would largely redound to Europe's favour.

I believe that the selfless efforts of the academic communities of Europe and the Arab World can make a difference. As has been demonstrated in the past, the seeds of imaginative solutions are often sown on university soil. For this reason, I am greatly encouraged by the resolution of the European Parliament to establish a Euro-Arab University which would bring European and Arab scholars together on a continuous basis to seek a commonality of interests and provide an intellectual and dispassionate impetus in Euro-Arab understanding.

I wish your Workshop every success and Godspeed with your deliberations.

Poverty haunts affluent Singapore

By Francis Daniel Reuter

SINGAPORE — Although Singapore is one of the most affluent countries in Asia, it has yet to find a way to wipe out the poverty haunting a large section of its population.

Government leaders admit the problem is here to stay despite their vision of turning the island state of 2.5 million into the "Switzerland of Asia" by the turn of the century.

Two decades of sustained economic growth has given Singapore the highest standard of living in Asia next to Japan. But according to researchers about 100,000 Singaporeans live below the poverty line while 300,000 more people eke out a living on wages not stripped by rising costs.

Some sociologists want increased social benefits for the poor, but the government maintains that it will never agree to make the island a welfare state.

The issue has become a hot topic since former President Devan Nair highlighted the plight of the poor in his address to the opening session of parliament after December elections.

Opposition leader Joshua Jayaretnam condemned the government for what he described as its failure to make a firm commitment to end poverty.

But first deputy premier Goh Chok Tong recently told the Legislature, dominated by the ruling Peoples Action Party (PAP), that it would be unrealistic to believe in total eradication of poverty despite the island's impressive economic strides.

"Our experience has confirmed that welfare and generous handouts are not the solution to the problem," said Mr. Goh, a potential successor to Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

Education and high economic growth would be key elements in the government's efforts to tackle the problem, he said.

According to official estimates about 12 per cent of the Singapore population — 300,000 people — belong to households earning less than 500 Singapore dollars (\$225) a month, considered here barely above subsistence level.

About 100,000 of them live on less than 250 dollars (\$110) a month in a state where the per capita annual income is 14,300 dollars (\$6,500).

About 3,000 people receive public assistance ranging from 90 dollars (\$41) a month for a single person to 220 dollars (\$100) for a family of four or more.

These payments are well below the subsistence level, says sociologist Cheah Hock Beng who conducted a pioneering study on

poverty in Singapore. He estimates a family of four needs a minimum of 365 dollars (\$166) to survive.

Mr. Cheah says some of the wealth accumulated by Singapore should be used to do more for the poor, and this would serve to prevent the development of social instability.

Singapore has foreign reserves of around 23 billion dollars (\$10.4 billion). The economy has grown at the rate of 7.9 per cent annual since 1974, and the government has targeted five to seven per cent growth for the rest of the decade.

"It is a mirage to believe that poverty can simply be abolished," says Lee Kuan Yew's son, Lee Hsien Loong, a junior minister. Like his father, he maintains generous welfare benefits will do more harm than good.

A leading U.S. company analysing investment risks in various countries recently warned of "growing social unrest" in Singapore because of the uneven distribution of wealth.

"When any country has progressed as well and as far as Singapore, it is inevitable that there are some people at the lower end of the social strata who have not fully participated in the gains," said Business Environment Risk Investment (BERI).

Radio Marti provokes Cuba

From Reuter

WASHINGTON — The United States began its controversial Radio Marti broadcasts to Cuba Monday, almost four months behind schedule, the State Department said.

A spokesman said the radio station, whose alleged goal is to "promote the cause of freedom in Cuba," would go on the air at about 09:30 GMT from a Washington studio, under the auspices of the Voice of America.

The Cuban government reacted angrily even before the first broadcast, suspending a recently concluded immigration agreement with the United States and halting visits to the island by Cuban-Americans.

With an initial price tag of \$10 million, Radio Marti will relay its programmes through a 50,000-watt transmitter in the Florida Keys for 14 1/2 hours a day, seven days a week.

Named after Cuban poet and independence fighter Jose Marti, the station had been scheduled to start up last Jan. 28 but was delayed by technical problems and difficulty in finding qualified staff. Its delayed inauguration Monday coincided with the 63rd anniversary of Cuba's independence

from the U.S. government that freed the Caribbean island from Spanish rule.

A Cuban government statement said "all procedures referring to the execution of the immigration agreement signed in New York by delegations from both countries on Dec. 14, 1984 are suspended."

It added that all visits to Cuba by Cuban-Americans would be immediately halted apart from those authorised "on strictly humanitarian grounds."

The 1984 accord had settled a wrangle over so-called Cuban undesirables, allowing the United States to deport 2,700 immigrants with criminal records over the next few years in return for the resumption of normal Cuban immigration to the United States.

About 100 "undesirables" have so far been returned to Cuba.

Cuba also threatened to launch a battle of the airwaves by starting broadcasts to the United States "intended at putting over Cuba's point of view about the problems of that country and its international policies."

It said it "reserved the right to begin medium-wave transmissions to the United States," although no firm commitment of

starting date was given.

Official sources told Reuters in Havana that a powerful Cuban transmitter and a team of radio journalists were ready to begin broadcasting and that the final go-ahead would depend on the content of Radio Marti.

The station is viewed by the government there as an attack on the nation's sovereignty.

Originally conceived by the Reagan White House in 1981 to report to the Cubans "about their government's domestic mismanagement and its promotion of subversion and international terrorism," Radio Marti's objectives were modified after U.S. congressional opponents charged it would be biased.

Legislation authorising the station required it to be a "consistently reliable and authentic source of accurate, objective and comprehensive news" whose goal was to "promote the cause of freedom in Cuba."

The programming is now intended to supplement the news media in Cuba with news and cultural reports about Cuba and other countries — such as Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty do in Eastern Europe, according to administration officials.



**Talking
straight
Marwan
Muasher**

Should the killing of Arabs by Arabs continue?

WHAT HAS become of us? How far do we have to keep digging before we unearth the true character, whatever that is, of this nation? How long do we have to contend with only writing about our frustrations, and watching at the same time a whole nation sinking slowly in shame?

Back in yonder days, things were much easier for this new generation of ours. We were taught everything in black and white. We did not have to wonder as kids where our hearts belonged. We knew, Israel was our enemy. Colonialism was our enemy. Superpowers were our enemy. Arabs were our friends. Nationalism was our love. Things were clear-cut. We did not have to think. We knew. One nation, they said,

from the Ocean to the Gulf, and we nodded. One hundred-and-twenty million strong, they proclaimed, and we cheered. One destiny, they preached, and we approved. We did not think. We knew.

We were proud of our morals. We bled them high. We believed in them, as much as kids can believe in anything. And we grew up. And though one calamity passed after another, we still believed in ourselves as Arabs. Even after 1967, we still believed. We still knew. Superpowers did it to us, so we said. Israel was still our one enemy. We were still one nation.

Things are more fuzzy these days. We no longer know who our enemies or friends are. We are not sure whom to trust and

whom not to. We do not know anymore.

How am I supposed to react to news that Amal fighters are bombing Palestinian camps? Three weeks ago, they were talking in newspapers about Amal women sacrificing their lives to fight the Israelis out of South Lebanon. That was easy to take a stand on. But what am I supposed to do now? Do I believe in the Amal fighting Israelis or the Amal fighting Palestinians? Do I rejoice for the former and condemn the latter? How can I be expected to have such opposite feelings for the same group anyway? Or should I accept the reality of politics? I do not know anymore.

Oh, but for the embarrassment I feel for all these

journalists who praised Amal's courage just few days ago. What are they supposed to write now? How are the parents of all those heroic women and men who gave their lives fighting the Israelis supposed to act? I do not know.

God, I am glad I am not studying abroad anymore. Oh, but for the enthusiasm we had then, arguing with Westerners about our cause. Together with all the frustrations we held about our countries and ourselves, we still believed. Our concept of right and wrong was still unshaken, if made more objective.

But what am I supposed to say now to a Westerner if he should ask why Sahara and Shatila are being killed again? How can I explain their second

(or is it fifth) death? What justification can I give now? The Israelis are no longer there to cover the operation. Only Arabs. Divine mercy, however, has decreed that I should be home, among friends, eating lettuce, watching me killing myself on TV, and shaking my head off.

You have to admit all this is confusing to this new generation. They come at you from all sides preaching how great this nation is, accusing the new generation any chance they get of being disloyal to the morals of their grandfathers. Before you have a chance to present your point of view, you see these same people betraying the same morals they advocate, let alone any new ones presented by the young or educated.

What am I supposed to do? Am I to stick by morals nobody practises or am I to advocate new ones nobody accepts? Whom do I listen to? Who do I trust? I do not know.

In a few days, or weeks, or whatever, everyone will make peace again. An Arab will intervene. A shout here, a shout there, and then Arabs embrace Arabs. And I'll watch them on TV, and proclaim, while chewing on my lettuce, "Blood is thicker than water".

Things are confusing indeed. You have to learn to hate people, love them, and hate them again in the shortest span of time one can think of. But such seems politics to be. Kill and let live. Kiss and let live. The worst thing about the

whole thing is that you are not allowed to reflect on the whole issue once it is over. You applaud a group for doing an act, you condemn it for doing another, and you forget when it is more convenient to forget. Any analysis is against Arab consensus. Any protests only serve the enemy. Any questions are against the common cause. Who knows, may be it is better just to sit back, eat, drink, and be happy.

Such is the absurdity of a hopeless romantic, who still believes that a nation, any nation, can rise up to its "true" character, but only if it wishes to do so. No nation has this "innate" trait that allows it to claim to glory. It either works to attain it, or forever keeps talking about it and fooling no one, not even itself.

The duties of television?

By J.H. Boteler

TOMORROW EVENING'S episode of "Television" (Sunday, 9:10), is subtitled "Chewing Gum For The Eyes". I can imagine what they are talking about: endless game shows, where the contestants are given cash and goods beyond their wildest dreams; (invariably the strain of their new-found wealth and bliss leads to divorce and misery within twelve months). Or cops-and-robbers programmes, with essentially interchangeable heroes and villains, and plots which are always variants on the same three basic themes. Or the continuous effusion of soap-operas such as "Dallas" and "Dynasty", or the condensed version, the mini-series, which purports to be profound and panoramic drama, and turns out all too often to be over-inflated pap. There are, of course, the concerned and well-thought-out documentary, or the well-edited and produced play. The problem with the former, of course, is that all too often it is concerned with some frighteningly grim subject and it leaves the viewer very depressed indeed, while the latter plays with such a surprise ending as they do amidst all that chewing gum that the poor old viewer has not caught his breath and adjusted his or her critical faculties before it is all but finished. But then again, perhaps chewing-gum is what is generally required. A hard day's work at the office, or in the house, children in bed, mind and body worn out, and a chance to relax and forget. What does your average Joe require? The ridiculous romantic fantasies of "Scarcecrow and Mrs. King", or the sobbing and depressing realities of a programme on cancer? The overwhelming response is for the night's viewing. But I hear a strangled voice complain, what about culture, what about us educated ones, who want to be intellectually stirred, to be made to think? Well, my friend, you are in

a minority. The majority of people prefer their entertainment light. Also, and this is very important, the television screen is not really suited to serious intellectual exercise. Live theatre, or concerts, or reading a book, require much more of one's concentration and imagination than the TV can ever hope to. So where does that leave us? With the chewing gum, I suppose, and myself immersed in a very tangled and sticky web of my own making. Best I stick to telling you what is on this week, and leave out the philosophy.

Except, of course, that any TV previews I am likely to give will, more than likely, be a complete waste of time, since practically everyone is spending their evenings for the foreseeable future getting stuck into Eftar, and eating vast and copious amounts of food after the rigours of the fasting day. Ah, well, I won't let that deter me. So, for starters, tonight at 8:30 has another instalment of sunny days in South-East Asia, or, in other words, "Vietnam". "Firepower, 1965-8" looks at the U.S. methods at the period of maximum troop involvement — the grand-sweep operations with big units aimed at destroying Communist base-camps, and sanctuaries. Despite these large operations, guerrillas continued to strike at the villages and refugees to flood into the cities. The only information I have about the feature film tonight at 10:15 is its title: "Wait till Your Mother Gets Home", but that sounds sinister enough as it is. (Having said that, of course, it will probably turn out to be a light-hearted farce).

Apart from "Television" tomorrow (Sunday), has "Allo Allo" at 8:30, and a further episode of "Chicago story" at 10:15. In the comedy, our brave boys of the RAF are captured by the Communist resistance, who mistake them for Germans. Various other characters also get mistaken for that which they are not, and general confusion promises to reign before the end.

Monday has culture at 8:30, in the shape of "Guitarra!", before

getting down to a truly solid wedge of chewing gum. I don't know what happened to "Maestro", which I talked about last week; perhaps it sank without trace in a Norwegian fjord, but instead we are being treated to a mini-series on "Grace Kelly", which concludes this week. (Monday, 9:10). This reconstruction of one of the great real-life romances is a bit like looking through one of those series of repeating mirrors. Art reproduces real-life which is reproduced in its construction. The poor girl who dreams of being a princess and then actually becomes one. Except of course that Miss Kelly was anything but a poor girl. She was a society girl who broke with "Good Form" to act, ending up portraying herself and her background, and then making the sort of marriage that her family always expected of her in the first place. It is a pity that in the lead role we have yet another from the stable of ex-Charlie's-Angels. Grace Kelly was an infinitely better actress than Cheryl Ladd; her accent was genuine to start with. It is also amusing to notice that the actors chosen to play leading men in various films resemble, in the whole, their originals more faithfully than Miss Ladd does. But a word of warning: if you are expecting revelations of married life in Moscow, with wayward daughters and fatal car accidents, then you are in for a big disappointment. The story ends in true fairy-tale style, with her wedding. 10:15 has more from "Murder She Wrote". I am sorry to have you tell me that even the title of the feature film on Tuesday at 10:15 is a secret to me. All I ask is that after the last two weeks we are not treated to another soppy pot-boiler about hospitals in middle America. I can tell you that 8:30 has another episode of "Duty Free", while at 9:10 there is the second episode of "Stroud for a Nightingale". Now, this, apart from anything else, is beautifully paced. The opening instalment spent most of its time introducing us to various

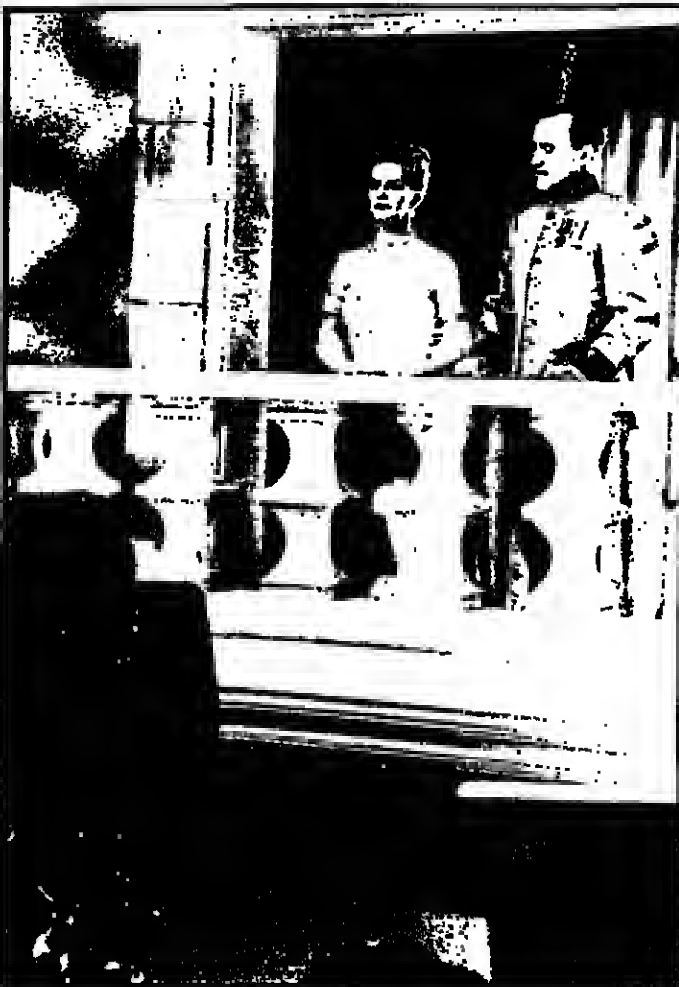
characters and suspicious circumstances. Joe Fallon, pregnant, and having ditched a boyfriend who did not look too pleased with the brush-off. Suggestions of illicit love between senior staff, (male and female), and student nurses. A very ill financier, and suspected arms-dealer and murderer, who appears to have other worries on his mind apart from the attention of suave Inspector Dalgleish. And then there is moral blackmail being practised by sanctimonious and wicked nurse Heather Pearce. Or rather it was, because she got hers at the end in no uncertain manner. Or did she? She's dead alright — there's no question about that. (In the book vain and oily Courtenay-Briggs makes a desperate attempt to save her by performing an on-the-spot operation and opening up her chest to get to her stomach, but in the interests of public decency we were, thankfully, spared that). But nasty Heather, if you remember, was a last-minute substitution in the demonstration. Has the wrong girl died? Will another shortly follow her? I happen to know, and I can tell you that it all gets deliciously complicated. But, in the best interests of rapid amateur sleuths and fairies for all, I feel that I must give you one important fact that the programme does not. To all intents and purposes, it appears that the drama is taking place in the middle of the 1980's. But it is not. It is taking place when the book was originally written, and that is fully fifteen years ago. I will say no more, but bear it in mind: it could be of great help in deducing the answers.

Disaster strikes for interfering Paul in "Even Decreasing Circles", (Wednesday, 8:30) when the newcomer Paul proves to be of an even more interfering nature and takes the resident's committee to task away all Martin's responsibilities and share them out amongst the other members. At 9:10 there is another programme from the "Hand and Eye" series, and "Glorious Mud". Many of the ceramic artists seen in this episode share the English philosopher

Herbert Read's view that pottery is the most abstract and domestic of the arts. Clay is totally plastic, ready to be transformed into any shape or colour an artist may have in mind. In that way, it is abstract. But it is also domestic, because pots, plates, mugs and cups are a part of all our daily lives. The programme displays a great variety of ways we shape and decorate common mud. The late Michael Cardew, the British potter who has had worldwide influence; the Japanese master, Tatsuzo Shimazaki; Canadians Robin Hopper and Joe Fafard and the American Viola Frey are all strikingly different from one another. Their works range from pots to giant human figures. They have all influenced our generation and show that we have not yet measured the limits of what can be done in ceramics. Play of the week, Wednesday, 10:15, is a study of Sir Malcolm Campbell. "Speed King" on both land and water, and stars the versatile Robert Hardy to the lead role. Campbell was a legend in his own lifetime. With his brilliantly designed "Bluebird" car he captured the public imagination by repeatedly raising the world land speed record, and in 1939 he also broke the record for water in his "Bluebird" boat. An exceptional multi-talented man, Sir Malcolm was idolised by his public. As a racing driver he possessed all the built-in instinct necessary for success. His determination to win at all costs was the driving force not only in his record-breaking attempts but also in his private life. The play is set in 1935, when Sir Malcolm attempts to break the world land speed record on the salt-flats of Utah, USA. As he prepared for the attempt, aided by his chief mechanic and close friend Leo Villa, his relationship with his wife, Lady Dorothy, comes under increasing strain. The play also projects forward to 1967, when his son Donald makes his last ill-fated attempt at the water speed record on Coniston Water in the Lake District of England. Wednesday looks a fairly interesting evening, but at this

point I should make shamefaced apologies and retreat into the background. Because this is also the evening when Channel 3 screens the European Cup Final, live, at around 9:00. Not last week, as I said earlier, I appear to have jumped the gun a bit there. So the choice would appear to be between mud and salt or Roast beef and Pasta, (in simpler terms, Liverpool and Juventus); the clash of the titans; the first chance England has had in simply years to possess two of the coveted European trophies in one year. Come on, you super Reds!

Which brings us, in the natural course of things, to Thursday. Whatever the faults or merits of television, there is one area where the entertainment of the public clashes with the need to observe the privacy and mental state-of-mind of certain sections of that society. Does TV, or films for that matter, have the right to trample over the personal grief of individuals in order to satisfy the needs of others to be entertained? There has been a worrying growth in recent years of programmes that give the full treatment to some crime or event in the all-too-recent history that, while purporting to be a concerned study of "right and wrong" and "the state of society" is little more than the vicious indulgence of our darker enjoyment of other people's suffering. I rather fear that "The Atlanta Child Murders" (Thursday, 9:10) is to prove a case in point. In 1979, in case anyone does not remember, the bodies of two black children were found dumped in a remote, wooded area near Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Both had been brutally murdered; there were no motives or suspects. Over the course of the next year, the death toll would climb to twenty-nine, leaving a city paralysed with fear and the nation shocked at what the media, in its usual tasteless, concerned and sympathetic manner, now dubbed "the murder capital of the world". There was even speculation that a number of the killings were "copy-cat" murders.



"Practises for Real Life" — Grace Kelly, Monday, 9:30

inspired by the original, and the media fascination. But a certain Wayne Williams was arrested and, in a trial as controversial as the crimes themselves, convicted. There are still sroog and bitter claims that he was merely a scapegoat, produced to allay public — and media — criticism of the failure of the local police to stop the bloodbath. With a cast boasting such talents as James Earl Jones, Martin Sheen and Jason Robards, this five-part series is likely to prove "good" TV; but don't talk about it too loudly if you are ever in Atlanta; for far too many people the reality was too

recent and quite enough. And finally Friday, which sees the conclusion of "The Moving Finger" as "Miss Marple" ties up the loose ends as neatly as her knitting, (with more to come in the next weeks), and the last and final thrilling adventure of Kate and Jim in "Hot Pursuit". Well, perhaps it's only the end of the series. I don't know, but this week has our funky fugitives finding themselves surrounded by dead bodies and dead wild-life in some hick town which they have decided to grace with their highly destructive presence. These two should carry a government health warning!

Bad manners is good business

By Jim Abrams
Associated Press

TOKYO — Bad manners is good business for a growing Japanese industry in training young office workers in the fine art of treating customers and superiors with civility.

Young women, in particular, are being sent to etiquette schools for what their new company employers say is sorely needed training in proper ways to answer telephones, bow, walk and pour tea. "Stick out your chests, keep your backs straight," sings out the instructor at a Japan Airlines Etiquette School, as some 20 young women practise walking in the prescribed manner of a good "O.L." (office lady).

The one-day course, this day for women aged 18-20 who had just started work at a travel agency, takes up such subjects as the correct angles for bowing to people,

depending on their relationship to the bower, the use of honourific forms of address to show respect, how to receive name cards — without putting fingers on the person's name — or the demure way to sit down.

The two instructors, both former JAL stewardesses, also offer practical advice on how to politely show the door to unwanted guests and the importance of eye contact and a willing smile.

The young students giggle and slap each other on the back as they are admonished for muffled phrases or slumping posture, but for the most part listen intently. "I think it will help me in the office," said 20-year-old Keiko Matsuda. "The police language and the sitting lesson were the hardest."

JAL, a leader in the etiquette business, in 1981 began sending out a handful of active stewardesses to give lectures at various

companies which found their own training programmes inadequate for the ill-bred young people they were faced with.

Last year, Japan's flag-carrier airline was engaged to teach good manners to 1,200 women "companions" working at an international science exposition which opened this spring, and currently JAL has 53 ex-stewardesses booked at least a month in advance to teach etiquette courses.

JAL officials said they trained 36,000 people last year, and that sales from an etiquette video tape are doing well.

Japanese have always prided themselves on good service — as witness the legions of uniformed women bowing at the entrances of department stores, the waiters who jump at every command and the effusively polite receptionists in offices.

"But many business executives are depressed at the lack of del-

icacy and traditional etiquette among the young generation," said Tohru Moriya, general manager of JAL's publications and cultural affairs centre, explaining the success of the courses.

Mamoru Wada of Management Service Centre, another industry giant, noted in another interview that "previously, it was presumed that young people would learn good manners at home and school." Now, he said, it is the companies, and the offshoot etiquette schools, which are taking over the responsibility.

No one knows exactly how big the manners industry is, but the Mainichi, Shimizu, a nationwide daily, said one estimate puts it at 100 billion yen (\$400 million) a year and growing.

With a majority of Japanese women, both married and unmarried, now working, the government has legislated measures to remove sex discrimination,

Business, not pleasure in Washington's parties

By Bruce Russell
Reuters

WASHINGTON — While novelists and television dramas paint Washington as a scene of wild parties and hijinks among the high and mighty, professional society watchers say the U.S. capital's steamy image is, alas, mostly fiction.

As the gossip columnists and glamour reporters tell it, today's Washington swirl is in reality more business than pleasure. The glittering salons once run by rival high-society hostesses are largely things of the past.

"This is a pretty straitlaced city," says Hope Ridings Miller, for eight years social editor of the Washington Post and now retired. "Everyone is watching everyone else."

Adds Diana McClellan, a British-born writer who does a daily Washington gossip column: "There is no sex. There is no fun. It's a bureaucratic city and

people who are elected have to lie pretty low. Those who are elected from the (conservative) "Bible belt" don't want anyone talking about their heart-shaped water bed."

Washington does have its sex scandals from time to time. In the 1970s Congressmen Wilbur Mills of Arkansas and Wayne Hayes of Ohio were involved in widely publicised affairs that helped terminate their political careers.

And a few members of Congress, lobbyists and other power brokers have been involved in more recent indiscretions.

But Ms. Miller says these incidents have been noticed precisely because Washington is so puritanical: "They make so much of these offbeat things because so little of that sort goes on."

If the town disappoints the scandalomongers, it does have lots of parties to keep society writers occupied. Ms. Miller calls party-giving "Washington's biggest bus-

iness". The grandest of these banquets and receptions can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Party-givers hire experts, often former White House social secretaries, to take charge.

Seeking status for their events, the organisers find extravagant and unusual party sites ranging from the homes of former presidents to museums and the government buildings.

They also strive to bring out the movers and shakers known around town as "the A list" — defined by Washington Post society writer Sarah Booth Conroy as "the cabinet, the heads of all the big agencies, members of Congress, senators ranking higher than representatives, and a few select ambassadors."

These elite guests do not acquire their status because of wit, charm or sparkling conversation, says Ms. McClellan, whose "Diana Hears" column runs daily

in the Washington Times. It is their position in government or business that counts.

The usual opening gambit at a Washington party — "and what do you do?" — locates a person's place in the pecking order.

Business is then transacted at a fast clip. A common sight is a lobbyist haggling with a congressman over hours of overtime.

Ms. Miller says one can tell the really important parties by the fact that everyone goes home early. "These people have other things to do," she says.

Most of the big parties are paid for by corporations, raise money for charities or mark cultural events.

American Express recently rented George Washington's home, Mount Vernon, and ferried its guests down the Potomac River to a banquet and fireworks display. Party organisers put the Mount Vernon rental cost alone at \$50,000.

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AMMAN JORDAN

National basketball team scores 88-81 victory over U.S. Spartans

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian national basketball team scored an impressive 88-81 victory over the American "Spartans" in a friendly match played at the Sports City Thursday night.

Captain Murad Barakat, voted the best player in the Arab World in 1983, led the Jordanian score-board with 45 points while his Spartans counterpart Rich Weidick contributed 17 points to the visitors' score.

The home team dominated the play in the first 15 minutes of the match and the field was virtually open to Yanal Konas, Inad Saeed and Samir Murkus to dash down the field and score, taking advantage of the loose-knit defence of the Spartans. From Case Western Reserve University of Cleveland.

In the last few minutes of the first half the guests dramatically shifted their tactics and turned more aggressive and as the timer sounded the break, the score was 54-40.

As play resumed after the break, it became evident that the Spartans, ranked the third best in the North Coast Conference games, had a lot more in store in accurate short passes and manoeuvres. But the home team also regained itself to the new onslaught to put up an impressive match in the last 15 minutes.

The Spartans did indeed stage a very good show of the American way of playing basketball but the home team, also coached by an American, Robert "Rip" Taylor, proved a little mightier.

As the scores went up on an even pace, with the home team maintaining an eight-point lead, the Spartans intensified their attacks and the Jordanians had to reinforce their defences. At one point, a few minutes before the final whistle, it seemed as if the visitors would catch up with the national team, but Barakat kept

up his individual initiatives and managed to increase the lead again to reach 88 points as the timer sounded for the last time.

Other scorers for the national team in Thursday's game were: Samir Murkus (six points), Yanal Konas (10), Inad Saeed (eight), Jamal Buheiri (nine), Yousef Zagloul (four) and Amjad Tumbour (six). On the American side the scorers were (Pat Potopsky (20), Joe Kenner (14), Craig Brown (5), Jim McElowney (10), Dave Holvey (2) Geo Hunter (six) and Mark Siegel (seven).

The Spartans, a reputed team among U.S. university players, arrived in Amman Tuesday on a 10-day visit. Apart from playing the national team they will also visit various touristic and archaeological sites in Jordan.

Thursday's game was attended by Minister of Youth Isam Shari, U.S. Charge d'Affaires Edward Guehn and the wife of U.S. Ambassador Paul Booker.

The national team, which turned up in full strength with the exception of Samir Nassar who could not play Thursday because of a knee injury, will play the Spartans again on Monday at Yarmouk University and again at the Sports City on Thursday.

The matches, jointly organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) and the United States Information Agency, "will help the national team to familiarise themselves with diverse tactics of the game and give them valued experience," said JBF President Awad Haddad, explaining that Jordan plans to send the national team to the pan-Arab



National team captain Murad Barakat (in white) scores two points as the Spartans' Craig Brown (number 21) tries to block him during Thursday's game between the Jordanian national team and the Spartans, from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland (Photo by Majid Kamal)

games scheduled to be held in Morocco in August.

Thursday's defeat did not seem to affect the spirit of the Spartans. "We have to admit that it was a very competitive game and concede that the Jordanian team had an edge over us in scoring from outside the zone," said Peter

Mueselmann, vice-president of Case Western Reserve University, who is accompanying the team along with coach Bill Sudeck and trainer Dennis Bash.

"We hope our performance will be better the next time," he said, referring to the two other matches scheduled with the national team.

Argentina seeks win to boost confidence

CARACAS (R) — Argentina will be seeking a comfortable confidence-boosting victory when they meet Venezuela in their first World Cup South American qualifying Group One soccer match in the western city of San Cristobal on Sunday.

After a string of poor results in their recent warm-up games, Argentina begin their first qualifying campaign since 1974 in need of a timely rediscovery of the form that swept them to victory in front of their own fans in 1978.

Venezuela, where baseball rather than soccer is the main sport, appears to be the ideal location. The Venezuelan national team have lost all but one of their previous 20 World Cup qualifying matches in the last four tournaments.

The exception was a home win against Bolivia in 1981.

"Of course we want to win," said the President of the Venezuelan Football Federation (FVF) Jose Angel Vidal Douglas. "But that is one thing and reality another."

Argentina, including star striker Diego Maradona in their squad, are due to arrive in San Cristobal Friday after playing in Colombia. The Venezuelans are already training there.

After poor results on tour in South America, Argentina's Trainer Carlos Rodriguez was sacked and replaced by Carlos Bilardo.

Bilardo is now trying to build his team round Maradona and former world cup-winning captain Daniel Passarella. Both have returned from Italy this month to join the squad.

Assuming they can overcome Venezuela, Argentina's first true test will come the following weekend when they face Colombia in Bogota, at an altitude of 2,600 metres (8,500 feet).

Unlike the Argentines, the Venezuelan players, all drawn from local clubs, are virtually unknown outside their own country — a natural symptom of the apathy to soccer in Venezuela.

Apathy is the main reason the match is being staged in the distant provincial capital of San Cristobal, 840 kilometres west of Caracas.

San Cristobal was chosen after none of Venezuela's four television stations showed interest in broadcasting the game from Caracas.

All three of Venezuela's World Cup qualifying matches are due to be played at San Cristobal and one television channel has now changed its mind and decided to show all three live.

Amman Little League

Baseball scores — May 24

Tee Ball		
Intercon. 6	Foxboro 5	
Jordan Express 24	Grindlays 17	
Arab Wings 15	Astra 12	
Ty Cobb		
Goodyear 43	Chase Manhattan 34	
Marriott 22	International Traders 15	
Lego 24	Holiday Inn 15	
Babe Ruth		
Eriqsson 17	Telcom. 6	
Volvo 5	Cairo Amman 3	
American Express 7	Al Ahlyah 0	

Final League Standings

T-Ball		Won	Lost
1st	Jordan Express	6	0
2nd	Intercon.	4	2
3rd	Foxboro	3	3
4th	Grindlays	2	4
5th	Arab Wings	2	4
6th	Astra	1	5
Ty Cobb			
1st	Goodyear	5	1
2nd	Chase Manhattan	4	2
3rd	Lego	4	2
4th	Holiday Inn	2	4
5th	Marriott	2	4
6th	International Traders	1	5
Babe Ruth			
1st	Volvo	5	1
2nd	Cairo Amman	4	2
3rd	American Express	4	2
4th	Al-Ahlyah	3	3
5th	Eriqsson	2	4
6th	Telcom.	0	6

Al Arabi scores 4-3 in penalties against Ramtha

By Mune'm Fakhoury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ramtha Sport Club lost on penalties (3-4) to Al Arabi Club in the soccer match held Thursday night at Amman Stadium during the Football Association's Shield Championship.

Al Arabi took control of the first half and its players were very active. The first threat to Ramtha, champions of 1982 and 1983 seasons, came when Al Arabi's striker Muwafaq Daraiseh sent a shot like a rocket to hit the bar of Ramtha's goal in the 3rd minute. Another shot in the 7th minute by the same player, again, hit the bar.

Ramtha, who retained some of its base players after a long period of abandonment, got the first chance to score in the 36th minute when midfielder Rabea Dauod passed the ball to striker Fayez Badiwy who failed to score from a few yards of Al Arabi's goal. After another 4 minutes Badiwy failed to score again when he received the ball from Rabea and faced Al Arabi's goalkeeper Riyad Talal who failed to score again.

In the second half Ramtha started attacking from the first minute. Led by Khalid Zo'ubi who used to be the "dynamo" of his team. But luck was against Ramtha especially in the 8th minute when Najeh Thiabat failed to



Ramtha's striker Fayez Badiwy (centre) reaching for the ball during the Ramtha-Al Arabi soccer match which Al Arabi won 4-3 (Photo by Majid Kamal)

score from in front of Al Arabi's goal. Twice Khalid's strong shots hit the posts of Al Arabi's goal and bounced inside the it's box but none of Ramtha's players was there to score.

The match which ended with a

draw after 90 minutes of play had to be extended. After 30 minutes of extra time the result was still a draw.

The match was concluded by penalty kicks and Al Arabi won by

4-3 over Ramtha. On Saturday night Jordan National Soccer Team will meet the National Youth Team in a friendly match to be held at Amman Stadium on the occasion of Independence Day.

World athletes compete for prize money

By John Mehaffey
Reuters

LONDON — The cream of the world's athletes, competing openly for prize money for the first time, will introduce a new age in athletics when the inaugural Grand Prix series begins this Saturday in San Jose, California.

Already the 1980s have seen remarkable changes in athletics. In the past three years the sport's governing body, the International Amateur Athletic Association (IAAF), has introduced a world championships, a world indoor games and approved the payment of appearance money at selected meetings.

Now this year leading athletes will be entitled to prize money totalling more than \$500,000 at 16 Grand Prix meetings in the United States and Europe.

Although various small professional circuits have appeared briefly over the years, the showpiece of athletics has always

been the Olympic Games, dedicated as they are to the amateur ideal.

But the Olympic vision of golden youth competing for glory alone has become irrevocably lost and since World War II the increasing pressures on athletes have resulted in the amateur regulations being flouted with cynical impunity.

The state-supported athletes of Eastern Europe and their American counterparts, financed by university athletics scholarships, are effectively full-time professionals and under-the-counter payments have proliferated at meetings throughout the world.

In fact the chief reason the American-organised international track association professional circuit founded nine years ago was its inability to recruit top names, who were all earning far more in "amateur" competitions.

The payment of prize and appearance money has effectively

removed this hypocrisy, although the IAAF still resorts to some convoluted sentence constructions to avoid using the dreaded word professional.

The man who symbolises the modern commercial athlete best is inevitably the United States' quadruple Olympic champion Carl Lewis.

Lewis, who competes in the 100 and 200 metres at Saturday's Bruce Jenner classic is a marketing dream. Intelligent, articulate and the most gifted athlete of his generation if not of all time.

He will be joined at San Jose by a glittering array of athletes, including American triple Olympic champion Valerie Brisco-Hooks and Czechoslovakia's 400 and 800 metres world champion and record holder Jarmila Kratochvilova. Kratochvilova is a classic example of an athlete whose career has been extended by the availability of prize money.

The awesome Czechoslovak, unbeatable in the 1983 inaugural world championships, missed last year's Olympics through the Eastern bloc boycott and publicly announced her retirement.

But the advent of prize money has persuaded her to return and the presence of 51 foreign athletes in the Bruce Jenner meeting is an early hint of the interest generated by the circuit.

As yet there is little indication to how well the 14 European meetings will be patronised, due to the invitation system operated by athletics promoters and the com-

plications of the scoring system.

IAAF officials privately concede that the final few meetings could be a nightmare of confusion as athletes competing for the prize money for most points in their discipline attempt to wrangle last-minute invitations.

Hitches seem bound to occur in the circuit's first year but the mere existence of a Grand Prix should attract attention fixed on athletics in a year where no major individual championship is scheduled.

As Lewis lines up at the Bruce Jenner classic, he may well sense the ghost of his childhood idol Jesse Owens at his elbow.

Exactly 50 years ago on Saturday Owens astounded the world when he shattered six world records in 45 minutes, an achievement unlikely to be remotely approached.

But even six world bests and four gold medals did not guarantee a living for a black American in the 1930s and Owens, the greatest sprinter and long jumper of his era, was reduced to racing race horses for money.

By contrast athletics has been Lewis' entree to the promised land.

He is already rich beyond the expectations of athletes of Owens' generation and as he and his peers vie for fame and money over the next three-and-a-half months, IAAF President Primo Nebiolo's ambitious dream of seeing athletics become the world's premier sport should become a step closer.

FOR RENT

Modern furnished and unfurnished apartments

(a) FURNISHED: Two-bedroom, living-dining room, kitchen and bathroom.

(b) One bedroom, living-dining room, kitchen and bathroom.

(c) Studio of one bedroom, kitchenette and bathroom.

UNFURNISHED: Two bedrooms, living-dining room, kitchen and bathroom.

Central heating and telephones.

Location: Jabal Amman between 3rd and 4th Circle. Tel. 641443.

FURNISHED VILLA FOR RENT

Consisting of three bedrooms, salon, dining room, sitting room, glassed-veranda, modern utilities, central heating, garden, telephone.

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Deluxe flat two bedrooms, three salons etc. Central heating, telephone and a garden in Jabal Amman.

Furnished or unfurnished
Call 672590

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One first-floor deluxe apartment with three bedrooms, salon, living and dining rooms, two bathrooms, and a veranda (glassed-in) with central heating.

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Please contact tel: 676810-Amman

PERMIT LOST

Mr. Mohammad Abdul Aziz Taghrimallah from Bangladesh, has lost his residence permit issued in Amman on 31/8/1980, file No. 21/96/Bangladesh. Anyone who finds it is kindly requested to deliver it to the nearest police station or to send it to P.O. Box 695, Zarqa.

Cinema CONCORD Tel: 44092-44280 677420 POLTERGEIST (Colour) Performances 3:30, 9:00, 10:45	Cinema AL-HUSSEIN Tel: 22117 Women (Colour) Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8	Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 625155 THE WINGED SERPENT 3:30, 5:30, 8:15, 10:45	Cinema OPERA Tel: 675573 LOOKER 4:00, 9:00, 10:45 Abdali, behind ALIA offices	Cinema PALESTINE Tel: 22117 DESH PREMEE BLOODY FIST (Colour) Performances: 12-3-7	Cinema RAGHADAN Tel: 22198 THE DIRTY DOZEN (Colour) 12:00, 2:30, 4:30, 9:00
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*** Cine-Theatre ***

Philadelphia

HANKY BANKY

Show at 3:30, 9:00, 10:45
Tel: 36144-3449

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.2650/60	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3713/20	Canadian dollars
	3.0775/95	West German marks
	3.4700/40	Dutch guilders
	2.5900/30	Swiss francs
	61.92/97	Belgian francs
	9.3825/3925	French francs
	1965.57/5	Italian lire
	250.80/90	Japanese yen
	8.9100/9200	Swedish crowns
	8.8525/8625	Norwegian crowns
	11.0425/0525	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	315.25/315.75	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares closed sharply lower on worries over the possibility of oil price cuts, the overnight falls on Wall Street and on profit-taking after recent gains, dealers said.

The F.T. 30 index at 1400 GMT Friday was down 12.5 points at 997.1, falling below the 1,000 mark for the first time since May 10. The FTSE 100 index at 1430 GMT Friday was 13.5 points off at 1311.8.

Trading was fairly quiet ahead of the long holiday weekend and was once again centred on stocks attracting bid speculation.

Government bonds shed early gains following a report which suggests an oil price cut is possible, though trading was dull. Shorts were unchanged but some long dates were 1/4 point lower.

The oil sector was easier on crude oil price worries though selective shares had moved above the early lows. B.P. was down 8p at 530 after 523 and Shell was off 13p at 700 after 695.

Burnish, however, ended 4p up at 290 after its annual general meeting.

Electricals remained weak following Thursday's lower than expected Plessey figures. Plessey, which has attracted takeover speculation, was up 6p at 150 after 154. GEC was down 2p at 182 after 180 but Racal was unchanged at 186 after 182.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime finds you with many clever ideas for bringing your special talents to the attention of those who can help to put them across. Evening brings unusual ways to enjoy yourself.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can be very creative today so make your plans wisely, and follow through with them. Listen to the ideas of your mate.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Think of home and family today, and make your abode a heavenly and restful place. Do some entertaining.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You know the right way to gain more cooperation from regular allies and thereby become more successful. Get your desk work banded.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Concentrate on making the most wise plan possible so that you add considerably to your present assets. Take it easy.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You are dynamic today and should contact those persons from whom you desire favors, and you can easily gain them with a smile.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study your overall ambitions now since you are too overwhelmed with details and could lose sight of what is truly important.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get into social affairs that truly intrigue you, and the evening can be a memorable one. Be more sure of yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can accomplish much in the outside business world so get an early start. Shop wisely and handle civic matters.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You like to think big and this is the right day for that because you can accomplish something worthwhile.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You may get so involved with specifics that you could forget the motives behind your undertakings.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Early find out what your associates expect of you, and then get busy and try to please them.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be more enthused about whatever you may be doing and gain the cooperation of fellow workers. Avoid one who is jealous of you.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she can readily understand how to improve conditions of every kind. Be sure to praise for any exceptional work accomplished early in life. Raise the incentive here and your progeny can reach the very heights and even acquire fame.

THE Daily Crossword

by Alfie Micol

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Victim	1 Have money on
5 Broadway hit	2 Hard to find
9 Miss Thompson	3 Console
13 Classic villain	4 "are my
14 Has flu	5 lucky star"
15 Silent one	6 Fr. port
17 Bernstein opera	7 Visagist: pres.
20 Affirmative	8 "is recording"
21 Feeding habits	
22 Caused a disturbance	
23 Attitude's state	
24 Gambling town	
25 Public title	
26 Nominal	
31 Puzzle opus	
32 Garments	
33 Balled	
34 Chip in ships	
35 Sophie's husband	
37 Feels sick	
38 Omelet	
39 Gr. god of mischief	
40 Throat	
41 Explosive	
42 Victim for a cause	
44 In addition	
45 Pond	
46 Visual opus	
47 Weather word	
50 Alias	
53 "Ring" finale (with "De")	
54 Recent	
57 Leonardo character	
58 Buttrine	
59 Cer. flower	
60 Headquarters	
61 Daybreak	

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solvers:

1 Victim	5 Broadway hit	9 Miss Thompson	13 Classic villain	14 Has flu	15 Silent one	17 Bernstein opera	20 Affirmative	21 Feeding habits	22 Caused a disturbance	23 Attitude's state	24 Gambling town	25 Public title	26 Nominal	31 Puzzle opus	32 Garments	33 Balled	34 Chip in ships	35 Sophie's husband	37 Feels sick	38 Omelet	39 Gr. god of mischief	40 Throat	41 Explosive	42 Victim for a cause	44 In addition	45 Pond	46 Visual opus	47 Weather word	50 Alias	53 "Ring" finale (with "De")	54 Recent	57 Leonardo character	58 Buttrine	59 Cer. flower	60 Headquarters	61 Daybreak	1 Have money on	2 Hard to find	3 Console	4 "are my	5 lucky star"	6 Fr. port	7 Visagist: pres.	8 "is recording"
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Syrian 1985 budget gives priority to defence, farming

DAMASCUS (R) — The Syrian government has proposed a 1985 budget of 43 billion Syrian pounds (\$11 billion), with almost a third of the total going on defence.

The budget, four per cent higher than the 1984 total of 41.3 billion pounds (\$10.5 billion), allocated 13 billion pounds (\$3.3 billion) to defence, a cabinet report presented to parliament Thursday showed.

This was up from 12.6 billion (\$3.2 billion) last year but unchanged at just over 30 per cent of total spending.

It earmarked 20 per cent of total spending — 8.6 billion pounds (\$2.2 billion) — for agriculture, up from 17 per cent in 1984, while subsidies on basic commodities were held unchanged at 1.4 billion pounds (\$357 million).

Minister of finance Mr. Qahtan Seyoufi told parliament the budget aimed to cut recurrent spending and boost maintenance and planned acceleration of investment.

The report showed recurrent expenditures (unchanged from 1984 at 23.3 billion pounds (\$6 billion), while capital spending rises eight per cent to 19.4 billion (\$4.9 billion).

Syria's financial and economic policies had two basic goals, Mr. Seyoufi said: "to meet mounting defence requirements for steadfastness and liberation (of Israeli-occupied Arab land) and to follow up implementation of development plans which would increase production in various sectors."

The government would also focus on completing projects in the oil and electricity sectors and continue to explore for oil, he said.

Two funds were made in eastern Syria last year.

The report said proposed spending would be covered by revenues, including 13.1 billion pounds (\$3.3 billion) from agriculture, industry, mining and public utilities, 12.7 billion (\$3.2 billion) from sources including grants and loans and 10.5 billion (\$2.7 billion) from taxation and duties.

The budget must be approved by parliament, which will begin its debate on the proposals next Tuesday, and endorsed by President Hafez Al Assad.

He asked it to consider how to set up private banks.

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A large part of the increased government spending will go for development projects, health and education, the latter being financed by a five per cent surcharge on the bulk of Pakistan's imports.

Mr. Haq also announced a 13.5 per cent increase for the lowest paid government employees and 10 per cent more for the rest. Salaries and pensions would be linked to inflation in future.

He raised rail fares by 23 per cent and electricity and petroleum prices by 10 per cent.

The 13.6 billion rupee (\$860 million) gap between revenues and expenditures would be made up by the new bonds and other measures announced in the budget, Mr. Haq said.

"We will have no deficit financing this year," he said.

Western commercial attaches said they were not sure the government would be able to raise that amount primarily by tapping the "black" economy, which is usually estimated at one-third the size of the current gross domestic product of 375 billion rupees (\$23.7 billion).

A spokesman for the opposition Movement for the Restoration of Democracy called it a "black money budget."

He put special emphasis on the deregulation committee, saying he

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White House to limit MX

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has agreed to limit deployment of MX nuclear missiles in a compromise with opposition Democrats in the Senate.

National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane said the deal would restrict deployment of the highly accurate, 10-warhead weapons in fixed underground silos at a Wyoming Air Base to 50 and limit production next year to 12 and to 21 in 1987.

The compromise, the latest of several setbacks for the president's military buildup, was announced shortly after the House of Representatives passed a budget slowing U.S. defence spending.

Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia forced Mr. Reagan, who originally wanted 200 of the missiles, to bargain on the MX programme when he proposed a limit of 40 deployed missiles as an amendment to the 1986 defence bill.

Mr. McFarlane said: "While I would prefer a more rapid procurement I applaud the Senate Action."

The White House admitted Thursday that despite intense lobbying it could not block Senate passage of Sen. Nunn's plan.

Sen. Nunn, who had supported the MX, said after the announcement it was important to reach a compromise which had Mr. Reagan's backing. "I don't consider this a victory for anything but national security," he said.

Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd of West Virginia said the agreement was a major concession for Mr. Reagan, who had made the MX a symbol of his military buildup and vigorously resisted efforts to curtail or kill the programme.

"We are sending a clear signal to the White House that there will be no more MX missiles, no more, period, until the White House and the Pentagon come up with a having mode that is mobile and deceptive," Sen. Byrd said.

Sen. Nunn, widely respected in Washington as a defence expert, has said that if his proposal became law, it could significantly alter U.S. strategy by eliminating MX as a possible first-strike weapon.

He said his plan was an effort to force the administration to find a new basing mode for the MX he-

ause fixed silos were considered highly vulnerable to Soviet attack.

In Vienna East-West talks on reducing conventional forces in Central Europe, now in their 12th year, look likely to remain deadlocked after the start of a fresh round of negotiations.

The two sides called for progress but differences which have blocked agreement were still prominent. East German representative Ulrich Potrafky said after the opening of the 395th session of the 19-nation talks Wednesday that the Warsaw Pact was still waiting for an answer to its proposal for a quick first phase out of 13,000 American and 20,000 Soviet troops.

The proposal made last February envisaged a subsequent freeze of all armies in the region.

"Our position has not changed. We have put a proposal on the table... and we are waiting for a constructive reaction from the West," Potrafky told reporters.

Western spokesman John Karch said that NATO was giving the Eastern proposal serious scrutiny.

But he could not forecast when the West would present a reply to the negotiations, known as MBFR (Mutual and Balanced Force

Reductions). Meanwhile Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) Director General James Abrahamson said Thursday that "dramatic breakthroughs" in research could make space-based defence weapons available in a few years.

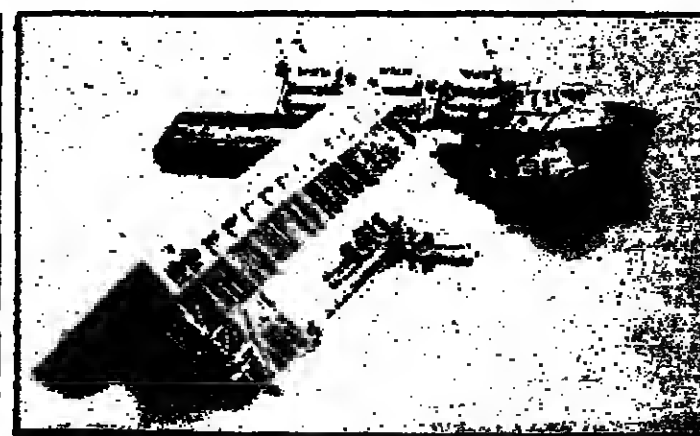
But he said the United States wanted its allies involved in any decision to deploy "Star Wars" weapons.

Abrahamson, answering questions in a satellite link-up between Washington, Israel and Allied capitals in Europe, said there had been "major technical advances in the area of railguns... just dramatic breakthroughs."

"But just because we have made great progress in that one weapon does not mean we are ready to go ahead with an SDI."

The railgun would use electromagneticism to fire small interceptors at very high speed, destroying nuclear missiles on impact as they fly through space. SDI scientists believe it is the most promising system under consideration.

Abrahamson said the decision to move ahead from research to development of the space-based anti-missile defence system would probably come in the early 1990s.



CAPSIZED OIL RIG: Rescue workers attempt to pull workers from a capsized oil rig barge that toppled early Tuesday morning in South Louisiana. Four crew members died, with eight others feared trapped. (AP wirephoto)

Filipino court orders recall of 'crying lady'

MANILA (R) — The Philippine Supreme Court Friday ordered the only witness to admit seeing the Manila Airport murder of opposition leader Benigno Aquino to submit to cross-examination.

The court voted 10-2 in favour of dismissing the petition of Rebecca Quijano, dubbed "the crying lady". It said the special court trying military chief Gen. Fabian Ver and 25 other men in connection with the August 1983 murder "was within its rights to issue the order of recall."

Ms. Quijano, 32, who disappeared after she was seen sobbing hysterically at the airport after Sen. Aquino was shot, had challenged the order summoning her for cross-examination. She said she feared for her life and that the defence had previously waived its right to question her.

She emerged from 20 months in hiding on May 2 to testify that she saw a soldier in uniform hold a gun to Sen. Aquino's head and heard a shot as the former senator and his military escorts descended the aircraft steps.

In a dissenting note, Justice Vicente Abad Santos said her fears were real. Maximum security would not ensure her survival. "I will have nothing to do with her demise."

The judge said: "Senator Benigno Aquino was assassinated while under tight military security."

The military said the killer was Rolando Galman, whom it described as a Communist agent. Galman was shot dead by security men immediately after Sen. Aquino was killed.

Soviet planes reportedly collided in mid-air

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet airliner which crashed earlier this month collided with a military plane over the Ukraine killing about 80 people, informed Soviet sources said.

They were giving details of a May 3 crash reported in the official press to have involved an airliner of the state airline Aeroflot flying from Tallin, in Estonia, to Lvov, in the Ukraine. All aboard were said to have been killed.

IRA attack sparks north-south police row

DUBLIN (R) — A bitter row has broken out between police forces in the Irish Republic and British-ruled Northern Ireland after four Northern police officers died in a Republican guerrilla landmine attack.

The row comes at a sensitive time with talks underway between Dublin and London over the new political formula aimed at ending 15 years of civil strife in the north that could include some sort of joint security role.

It began when Northern Ireland police issued a statement on Tuesday saying they were satisfied that the men and explosives used in the previous day's attack by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrilla group had come from the republic.

Irish police, in an unprecedented move, issued a counter-statement saying there was no evidence the men and materials had come from the republic.

The Dublin statement expressed disappointment at the Northern Irish claim, which it described as pure speculation. "That is not the language of cooperation and mutual concern," it said.

Some analysts of Irish affairs saw the Northern Irish statement as an attempt by police chief Sir John Hermon to put pressure on his counterpart in Dublin, Laurence Wren, for a meeting to discuss increased security cooperation on the border.

Regular contacts between the two chiefs broke down in 1982 when Northern police briefly detained a man due to have given evidence against a relative of then Irish Justice Minister Sean Doherty in a case of assault.

Shuttle to conduct SDI experiment

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Experiments to test an important phase of the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) research programme will be conducted during the flight of the U.S. space shuttle Discovery next month.

The Strategic Defence Initiative Organisation announced that the first of a series of technology development experiments will fly aboard the shuttle Discovery, which is scheduled for launch in June.

The experiment, called a High-Precision Tracking Experiment, is designed to test the ability of a ground laser beam detector to accurately track an object into low-earth orbit.

The High-Precision Tracking Experiment payload consists of an eight-inch diameter retroreflector mounted in a cylindrical housing. When removed from its storage locker, the retroreflector assembly will be attached to the shuttle's mid-deck side hatch window in order to receive and reflect a low-energy ground laser beam from a test facility located on the island of Maui, Hawaii.

In addition to the High-Precision Tracking Experiment, the Strategic Defence Initiative Organisation has requested National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) support for experiments on two shuttle flights a year beginning in 1987.

Prior to that time, a variety of cabin and other experiments may be flown.

The next U.S. space shuttle launch has been delayed five days to June 17 so technicians can replace a potentially troublesome device on two satellites due to be launched during the mission. Space agency officials in Cape Canaveral said Hughes Aircraft Co engineers had found a possible problem in an antenna positioning mechanism on a satellite similar to the Telstar 3D, owned by AT and T, and Morelosa-A.

The majority ruling said fear of danger should not excuse Ms. Quijano from giving evidence "otherwise anybody who is afraid to testify for reasons real or imaginary, could be excused from testifying."

The court ordered the prosecutors to provide maximum security for her protection and safety. Ms. Quijano was on the same plane as Sen. Aquino when he returned home from self-imposed exile in the United States. He was shot seconds after leaving the aircraft.

The military said the killer was Rolando Galman, whom it described as a Communist agent. Galman was shot dead by security men immediately after Sen. Aquino was killed.

The officers included Major-General Yevgeniy Krapivin, commander of the air force in the south west region, his deputy and another general.

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Ministry declined to confirm or deny the report, saying "we have no information on that incident."

Meanwhile the leader of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, has said Monday's attack would have no effect on support for his party in local elections due in the republic next month.

Launching Sinn Fein's election campaign Wednesday, Party President Gerry Adams said Sinn Fein would be asking the electorate to endorse "the right of the Irish people to armed resistance against British military occupation."

Sinn Fein won more than 10 per cent of the vote in local polls in Northern Ireland last week, its first major foray into local politics there.

But the group, which supports a dual hall-and-bullet strategy in its fight to end British rule in Northern Ireland, is a far less significant force in the republic.

Intelligence sources said the FBI must have either intercepted telephone calls to the Soviet offices or kept a round-the-clock watch on them.

An FBI affidavit filed on the case said only that the bureau acted on confidential information.

Two FBI agents, David Silva and Daniel McLaughlin, said in an affidavit they met Cavanagh, who was using the name Peters, three times and arrested him on the third occasion when he accepted \$25,000.

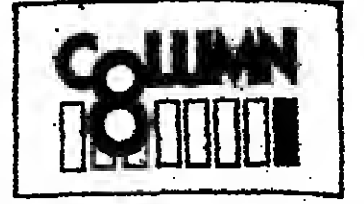
Cavanagh, who is separated from his wife, was quoted as telling the agents: "I'm after big money — \$25,000 is a drop in the bucket, believe me."

Cavanagh pleaded guilty on March 14 to two counts of espionage stemming from the second and third meetings with the FBI agents.

Byrne sentenced him Thursday to life imprisonment on each count, to be served concurrently.

The judge agreed to drop the remaining two counts, one of espionage stemming from the first meeting and one of possessing a machine gun.

He was arrested in Los Angeles last December after he was alleged to have tried to contact the



Swazi Queen Regent changes name

MBABANE (R) — Swaziland's head of state, Queen Regent Ntombi, will no longer be called by her last name which means 'girl' as it suggests disrespect, the government has said. A statement by the Home Affairs (Interior) Ministry said the Queen would now be simply called Queen Regent or Indlovukazi (Great She Elephant).

The pop group Bucks Fizz have given their first performance since a coach crash five months ago nearly ended their career. More than 1,000 fans who had paid £16.50 (\$20) each cheered Mike Nolan, Bobby Gee, Cheryl Baker and Jay Aston at a Birmingham night club.

Nolan and Baker were thrown through the windscreen of the group's coach when it was in collision with a truck near Newcastle, north east England. Nolan, who developed a blood clot on his brain, was in a coma for five days during which he was given the last rites.

Bucks Fizz back on stage after crash

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Report urges better nuclear safeguards

WASHINGTON (R) — The world's five nuclear powers should stop producing plutonium and weapons-grade uranium in a cooperative move to stem nuclear proliferation, an international report has said.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said such a step by the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China could be verified quickly by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

But, in a report on "Safeguarding the Atom," the private institute noted that China, the Soviet Union and France had not joined Washington and London in agreeing to place all nuclear energy facilities including those capable of making weapons fuel under IAEA safeguards.

"An important measure which could... render the NPT (1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) more attractive to non-nuclear weapons states would be the cessation of the production of plutonium and highly enriched uranium for military purposes and the placing of the relevant plants under safeguards," the report said.

The NPT and a subsequent international nuclear safeguards agreement had been remarkably successful in slowing the spread of nuclear weapons in the past 10 years, it said.

But lack of progress on arms control and a continued build-up of nuclear stockpiles by the five countries had prompted a drive by other countries to obtain weapons of mass destruction, the institute said.

It said the desire of some states to develop atomic weapons was growing rather than waning.

In noted that China and France as well as "nuclear threshold" states "Argentina, Brazil, India, Israel, Pakistan and South Africa had not signed the 1968 treaty."

"Technical improvements of safeguards are feasible, but their main limitations and weaknesses are political, not technical," said the report, written by former South African diplomat David Fischer and Paul Szasz, director of the U.N. office of legal affairs.

The report followed a number of recent highly-publicised events involving nuclear proliferation including:

— The indictment of a California man on May 16 for illegally shipping to Israel 800 electronic timing devices which could be used to trigger atomic weapons. Israel said the devices were never intended for such use.

— Published statements by a military commander-in-chief of Sweden that his country conducted research until 1972 on the possible development of nuclear bombs.

— A report by an anti-apartheid group in Washington this week that it had official U.S. papers indicating that South Africa tested a nuclear bomb in the South Atlantic in 1979.

— The announcement by a U.N. official in February of the collapse of a two-year effort to establish nuclear-free zones in the Middle East, the Balkans, Northern Europe, Africa, South Asia and the South Pacific.

"Perhaps one or two of the threshold states — most likely Israel — have some pre-assembled bombs in the basement," said the report, issued simultaneously in Washington, Stockholm and London.

Speaking to tax officials later, Mr. De Mel said defence spending was largely responsible for having turned a projected surplus of 1.7 billion rupees (\$62 million) into an estimated budget deficit of 4.1 billion rupees (\$149 million).

He asked Inland Revenue Ministry officials to gather more tax because he said the country faced difficult times ahead.

Guerrillas have stepped up their war for a separate state in northern Sri Lanka for the island's 2.5 million Tamil minority.

Authoritative sources say Sri Lanka has largely solved the problem of finding new weapons by buying arms on the open market and through government-to-government negotiation with China and Pakistan.

Meanwhile an American has been shot and wounded by Sri Lanka security forces while driving through Colombo during a city-wide power failure, police said Friday.

They told Reuters that Mathew Flanagan, manager of a city civil engineering project, had ignored an order to stop while driving down a one-way street late Thursday night.

A spokesman for the U.S. embassy confirmed that Flanagan was shot and wounded by security forces during the blackout.

Local news agencies reported the strike was 25 to 75 per cent effective in the provinces.

Argentine officials are negotiating with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a \$1.42 billion stand-by loan as a step toward easing the country's \$48 billion foreign debt and inflation of 940 per cent.

Officials blasted the strike as move to undermine the 17-month-old democratic government of President Raul Alfonsín.

Attendance at the Buenos Aires protest rivalled that of an April 26 rally in support of democracy at which Mr. Alfonsín pledged a "war economy" to contain the debt and inflation.

But his government has taken few concrete steps so far, apart from a freeze on public sector jobs and proposals for a 12 per cent budget cut and a compulsory savings system.

The strike came as negotiators left for Washington to seek final accord with the IMF on the stand-by loan.

Argentina needs to clinch the deal to unlock a \$4.2-billion finance package from creditor banks and to block a meeting of U.S. financial regulators on June 10 from downgrading its loans.

Bankers have said Argentina is an estimated \$900 million in arrears on interest payments. The prices of shares of U.S. banks plunged in New York Thursday on rumours — later denied by the Argentine Central Bank — that the banking industry had been nationalised.

Sri Lanka to spend \$72m more on defence

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka is to spend an extra \$72 million on defence this year above the budgeted figure of \$131 million, Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel said Friday.

Mr. De Mel told a parade in Colombo that defence spending had risen tenfold in nine years, from 330 million rupees (\$12 million) in 1976 to the 1985 budgeted defence expenditure of 3,600 million rupees (\$131 million).

"The government is prepared to spend 100 times the 1976 figure to defend the country," he said.

The government's plan to spend a further two billion rupees (\$72 million) on defence in the current year would bring daily expenditure on defence to 16 million rupees (\$600,000), he said.

Speaking to tax officials later, Mr. De Mel said defence spending was largely responsible for having turned a projected surplus of 1.7 billion rupees (\$62 million) into an estimated budget deficit of 4.1 billion rupees (\$149 million).

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Washington (R) — The FBI says a navy secrets scandal involving an alleged father-son spy team could have devastating implications for U.S. security.

John Walker, 47, a retired navy communications specialist, was arrested on Monday. His 22-year-old son Michael was detained aboard the aircraft carrier Nimitz on Wednesday.

Both are accused of spying for Moscow. The elder Walker, said by Justice Department sources to have been turned in to the FBI by his ex-wife and daughter, was alleged to have passed secrets to the Soviet Union for up to 18 years.

"We do anticipate more arrests of other Americans," FBI Spokesman Lane Bonner said Thursday.

The FBI said that among documents passed to the Soviets were charts of Soviet ship movements in the Mediterranean which revealed the methods and accuracy of U.S. intelligence gathering activities from the nuclear-powered Nimitz.

FBI Assistant Director Bill Baker was quoted by ABC Television as describing the implications to U.S. security as "potentially devastating." He said a complete investigation would be undertaken to determine the extent of the damage.

"To have that much information in his hand, and then give it to the Soviets, would tell them how we did our job, how well we